

**Beaufort County Above Ground  
Historic Resources Survey  
Beaufort County, South Carolina**



**Brockington and Associates, Inc.  
Brooker Architectural Design Consultants  
Historic Beaufort Foundation  
Preservation Consultants, Inc.**

**1998**

**BEAUFORT COUNTY ABOVE-GROUND  
HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY OF  
BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA**

Prepared for:

Beaufort County, South Carolina  
City of Beaufort, South Carolina  
Town of Port Royal, South Carolina

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Report Prepared for:

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Town of Port Royal, South Carolina

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## **Chapter 1: Introduction**

### ***Preface***

Beaufort County is rich in its historical resources, and its history exists on several levels of the popular imagination. The City of Beaufort perhaps comes most readily to mind, its streets close to the harbor lined with grand two- and three-story houses, with layers of porches across two or three sides. Other images are powerful as well. The image of plantations, with their seemingly endless vistas of marshes and rice fields producing wealth almost beyond comprehension, is strong, as is perhaps the image of small houses on the remote sea islands that form Beaufort County's contact with the Atlantic Ocean.

Examples of these resources certainly exist, but they are only part of the reality behind the image. Mid-twentieth century housing construction, including a boom after World War II in both Beaufort and Port Royal, constitute a large portion of the County's historic resources, while small farm houses of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries are scattered throughout the inland portions of the County. Schools, bridges, cotton gins, manufacturing facilities, and stores from the twentieth century, along with the grand houses, plantations, and sea islands, remain to testify to the County's patterns of development.

In the past several decades, however, the pace of development in Beaufort County has accelerated greatly, as people from around the nation have discovered its natural beauty and historical associations. As new housing subdivisions arise, new roads are built and old roads widened, and as retail shopping centers line these new and improved roads, the potential for destroying Beaufort County's valuable heritage has increased apace. Wise planning for the County's growth and development requires an understanding of the locations, types, and significance of the cultural resources that may be affected in the course of this development. This report is intended to provide a solid basis for this understanding.

### ***Name of Survey***

This project, in accordance with the Scope of Work, is titled *An Above-Ground Historic Resources Survey of Beaufort County, South Carolina*.

### ***Boundaries of Survey Area***

The survey area is the political limits of Beaufort County, and includes the City of Beaufort, the Town of Port Royal, St. Helena Island, Daufuskie Island, and the rural areas of Beaufort County and its barrier islands. The survey area does not include the Town of Bluffton, the Town of Hilton Head, and the federal land. Figure 1 shows Beaufort County with the excluded areas indicated.

### ***Area of Survey***

The total survey area is approximately 560 square miles in Beaufort County.

### ***Surveyors***

The survey has been carried out by a collaboration of four firms and organizations in Beaufort and Charleston: Bruce G. Harvey has represented Brockington and Associates, Inc., Colin Brooker has represented Brooker Architectural Design Consultants, David B. Schneider has represented Historic Beaufort Foundation, Inc., and Sarah Fick has represented Preservation Consultants, Inc.

### ***Dates of Survey***

The background research and field work phases were carried out during calendar year 1997, with follow-up work conducted during the winter of 1998. Initial planning meetings began in January 1997 and background research in Beaufort and Columbia began shortly thereafter. Fieldwork in both the rural and urban areas of Beaufort County began in February, 1997. The survey will be complete on 15 April 1998.

### ***Objective of Survey***

The objective of this survey has been to identify all above ground historic resources in the survey area of Beaufort County. These resources include a wide variety of cultural remains, including buildings, structures, sites, objects, districts, and landscapes that have architectural or historical significance. The members of the team who conducted the survey also provided basic historic documentation of these resources. This research and field work has been conducted with several goals in mind. The project is designed to provide information to public officials throughout Beaufort County to allow them to make informed decisions regarding the impact of development and other public activities on Beaufort County's cultural resources, and to set priorities for the protection and use of these resources. It is also hoped that this project will generate additional public awareness of the presence of cultural resources in the county, and their value to the community. The historical overview contained in Chapter 2 of this report is designed to assist in the appreciation of these resources. The results of this survey should also serve as an archival record of the county's above ground historic resources; toward this end, an inventory list containing every site recorded during the field work is a part of this report.

This project is part of the Statewide Survey of Historic Places, a program coordinated by the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The purpose of this statewide program is to identify all cultural resources in the state, and to highlight those that are eligible for the National

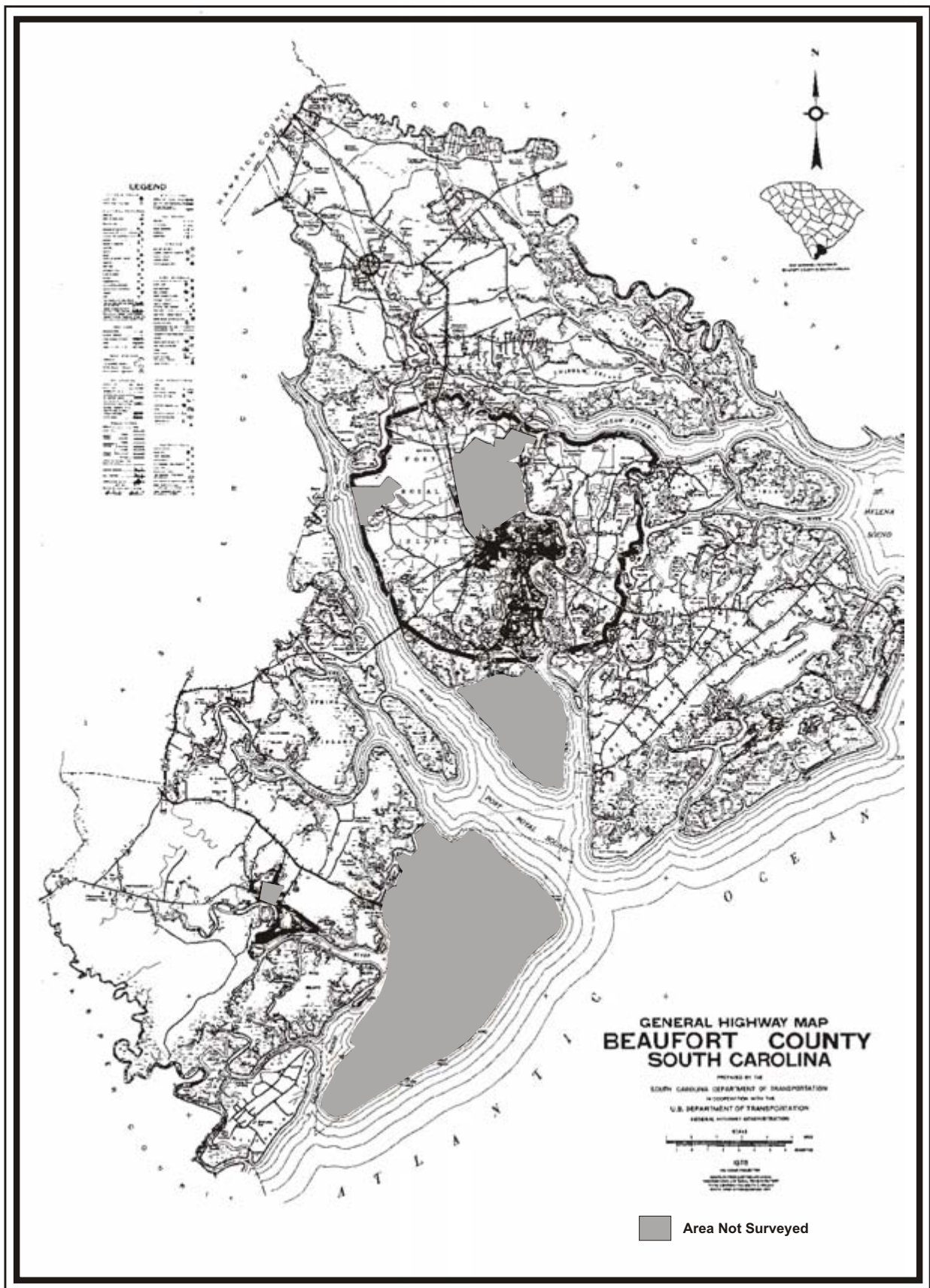


Figure 1. Map of Beaufort County showing the survey area.

Register of Historic Places (NRHP). This process of documentation is mandated by the Federal government through the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended. It provides the SHPO with information that enables it to review the impact of projects with Federal components on resources eligible for the NRHP. Federal projects require environmental and cultural review permits to proceed, which in turn requires review by the SHPO. In addition, some federal grants for cultural resources and certain Federal tax incentives for rehabilitation of historic buildings require a determination of NRHP status. The information developed through the Above-Ground Historic Resources Survey of Beaufort County gives the SHPO a basis for making these determinations.

### ***Methods of Survey***

The methods of this survey relate directly to its goals and objectives. The survey began with background historical research for Beaufort District and Beaufort County. This research consisted of examining historic maps, plats, documents, and unpublished secondary materials at the South Caroliniana Library of the University of South Carolina (Columbia), the South Carolina Department of Archives and History (Columbia), the South Carolina Historical Society (Charleston), the South Carolina Room of the Beaufort County Library (Beaufort), the Beaufort County Register of Mesne Conveyance (Beaufort), the Charleston County Public Library (Charleston) and interviews with individuals knowledgeable about Beaufort County's history. Members of the survey team reviewed contemporary published literature such as business gazetteers and directories and local newspapers. In addition, the consultants reviewed the available secondary literature pertaining to Beaufort County and the Lowcountry of South Carolina. While a great deal of information is available for colonial and antebellum Beaufort County, relatively little has been published that illuminates Beaufort County's late nineteenth and twentieth century history. At the same time, the largest number of the surviving historic resources in Beaufort County date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Members of the survey team have therefore placed a special emphasis on providing information about modern Beaufort County.

This background research led to completion of a historical overview that identified important themes and patterns in Beaufort County's historical development. The overview serves two important ends. First, it will serve as an introduction to Beaufort County's history for the general reader. Second, it provides a context within which to identify and assess the significance of Beaufort County's above-ground historic resources; eligibility for inclusion in the NRHP rests to a large extent on the relations between a historic property and its historical context. This historical context also allowed the field surveyors to predict and to be alert to the presence of certain types of historic resources, and to understand their significance in the field.

The field survey began once the draft historical overview had been developed. The objective was to locate and document all historic resources which were built before 1950. The field work was conducted on two levels simultaneously. Surveyors made determinations as to the potential NRHP status of properties which they encountered. Properties which were potentially eligible for the NRHP or which were already listed on the NRHP, along with those which possessed unique or

otherwise notable historical or architectural qualities and those which are not readily accessible to the public, were documented through the completion of an intensive statewide survey form. All other properties, those which are not potentially eligible for the NRHP, were documented on a reconnaissance survey form with basic information including location, approximate age,, condition, and integrity. All properties were photographed using black and white film, and were plotted on Beaufort County planning maps and digitized in ArcInfo by the Beaufort County Geographical Information System (GIS) Department.

Additional research on individual properties was conducted during and after the field work. A preliminary public meeting provided a base for identifying properties and individuals knowledgeable about them, while surveyors made attempts during the field work to talk to owners or residents regarding particular properties. In addition, members of the survey team conducted research on selected properties in the Beaufort County Register of Mesne Conveyance in Beaufort. This information has been used to supplement the historical overview and to provide historical background information on the Survey Forms.

## Chapter II: Historic Overview of Beaufort County

### *Introduction*

Beaufort County is a place dominated by waters. Robert Mills, writing in his *Statistics of South Carolina* in 1825, observed that “there is no district in the state, either better watered, or possessing a larger portion of rich land, than Beaufort.”<sup>1</sup> The Atlantic Ocean extends far into Beaufort County, through a maze of sea islands. People who have seen these islands have prized them for centuries, from the Spanish settlers of the sixteenth century who used the harbors and islands for shelter, to the eighteenth and nineteenth century British and American planters who grew rich from long-staple cotton, to the modern developers catering to wishes for waterfront property with breathtakingly beautiful marsh vistas. Further inland, a network of rivers drains the inland parts of the county and provides a mix of highlands and marshes that proved ideal for rice culture in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Staple crop agriculture dominated Beaufort County in the colonial and antebellum years. County residents continued to raise crops after the Civil War, but agriculture represented smaller parts of the county’s economic base in the twentieth century. The ravages of the Civil War, which were intense in both the City and County of Beaufort, joined with changes in the nation’s and the world’s economies to make rice and sea island cotton less viable throughout the Lowcountry of South Carolina. In the years after the Civil War, residents and investors in the county sought to find new ways of earning money; shipping, seafood packing, phosphate mining, truck farming, logging, and more, each had its day. Logging activities, phosphate mining, and especially truck farming joined with re-created plantations to dominate the rural inland parts of the county by the twentieth century, while manufacturing, seafood, and commercial activities centered in the more urban areas surrounding the City of Beaufort and the Town of Port Royal. This mix of agriculture, timber, commerce, recreation, and light industry, along with tourism and a strong military presence, continues to support the county in the late twentieth century.

The mix of old and new is particularly strong in Beaufort County, which saw the earliest European attempts at settlement of any part of the state. Enormous social, economic, and political changes have swept over the land since the early European explorations of the Americas; these along with military invasions have had a powerful impact on the county’s landscape and architecture over the past several centuries. Beaufort County is also a focus for modern development, and new landscapes are being created as this survey is being conducted. A keen awareness of historical resources is crucial for keeping the claims of the past in keeping with the demands of the present and future.

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<sup>1</sup>Robert Mills, *Statistics of South Carolina, Including a View of its Natural, Civil, and Military History, General and Particular* (Charleston, SC: Hurlbut and Lloyd, 1826; reprint, Spartanburg, SC: The Reprint Company, 1972), 367.

The southern Lowcountry, and South Carolina in particular, has been the subject of several scholarly studies in the past decade. These studies have made the task of writing this historical overview an even more rewarding process. Lawrence Rowland, a historian teaching at the University of South Carolina at Beaufort, in his dissertation and in subsequent articles has brought to light valuable information and interpretations regarding Beaufort District in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.<sup>2</sup> More recently, a history of Beaufort County co-written by Rowland, Alexander Moore, and George C. Rogers, Jr., provides a base for understanding the county's history before the Civil War.<sup>3</sup> Peter Coclanis, a historian at the University of North Carolina, has written about the influential role of international markets on the early and continuing formation of the South Carolina Lowcountry.<sup>4</sup> Joyce Chaplin, a historian at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, has written a study of the development of modern thought in the southern Lowcountry during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, and has focused on discussions of technological improvements, intellectual currents regarding modern economic and agricultural thought, and changes in the landscape.<sup>5</sup> Finally, Stephanie McCurry has written a study of yeoman culture in St. Peter's Parish in the early and middle nineteenth century. McCurry, a professor of history at the University of California at San Diego, made an exhaustive examination of the sources pertaining to St. Peter's Parish, in what is now Jasper County, and has described the relations among poor white, yeoman, and planter families in the decades leading up to the Civil War.<sup>6</sup>

All of these works focus primarily on Beaufort's Augustan age, the years before the Civil War. Given the ravages of time and war, few architectural or historical resources survive from this period outside the City of Beaufort. The purpose of this overview is to provide a context for understanding the historical resources that still exist, and to understand why other types of historical resources no longer exist. The bulk of the historical resources in the county outside the relatively urban areas of Beaufort and Port Royal date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Information regarding this more recent period is widely scattered, and primary research is on-going. It is hoped that this report will stimulate additional research activity

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<sup>2</sup>Lawrence S. Rowland, "Alone on the River: The Rise and Fall of the Savannah River Rice Plantations of St. Peter's Parish, South Carolina," *The South Carolina Historical Magazine* 86 (April 1985); Rowland, "Eighteenth Century Beaufort: A Study of South Carolina's Southern Parishes to 1800" (Ph.D. diss., University of South Carolina, 1978).

<sup>3</sup>Lawrence S. Rowland, Alexander Moore, and George C. Rogers, Jr., *The History of Beaufort County, South Carolina. Volume I, 1514-1861* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1996).

<sup>4</sup>Peter A. Coclanis, *Shadow of a Dream: Economic Life and Death in the South Carolina Low Country 1670-1920* (NY: Oxford University Press, 1989).

<sup>5</sup>Joyce E. Chaplin, *An Anxious Pursuit: Agricultural Innovation and Modernity in the Lower South, 1730-1815* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1993).

<sup>6</sup>Stephanie McCurry, *Masters of Small Worlds: Yeoman Households, Gender Relations, & the Political Culture of the Antebellum South Carolina Low Country* (NY: Oxford University Press, 1995).

into Beaufort County's twentieth century history. Preliminary results are presented here, along with a general overview of Beaufort County's earlier development.

The political geography of what is now Beaufort County has changed over the years of European and American occupation, and should be kept in mind during the following historical overview. Spanish explorers established a base in what is now Beaufort County in the sixteenth century, while English settlement along the South Carolina coast began at Charleston in 1670. What is now Beaufort County was not within a political jurisdiction in 1682. At that time, it was probably administered first from Colleton County and then from Granville. There were no county seats in the area, and all official records were kept in Charleston. Between 1706, when Parliament passed the Church Act, and 1769, the coastal portions of South Carolina were subdivided into parishes, centered around Anglican churches. Parts of three parishes formed what is now Beaufort County: St. Helena, St. Lukes, and Prince Williams.

The colony of South Carolina was reorganized into circuit court districts in 1769. Beaufort District included most of what is now Beaufort, Hampton, and Jasper counties; court was held at different times through the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in the towns of Gillisonville, Coosawhatchie, and Beaufort. In 1878, the western parts of Beaufort County were split off to form Hampton County. Jasper County emerged in 1912 from parts of Hampton and Beaufort counties; the present shape of Beaufort County was established in the middle twentieth century.

### ***The Protohistoric Era and Early European Context***

Native American groups had occupied the area between the Combahee and Savannah rivers for ages before the arrival of Europeans in the early sixteenth century. While the Yamasee are the best known tribe as a result of a war bearing their name in the early eighteenth century, other groups had also been in the area. The most important of these was the Cusabo, a branch of the mighty Muskogean linguistic family. They were the first group that the arriving Spanish encountered in the sixteenth century, and clearly were the dominant group in the area at the time of contact. At that time, the Yamasee were more closely associated with lands in Georgia. The Yamasee moved north of the Savannah River in 1687, and lived more or less in alliance with the British colonists in the area until the outbreak of war in 1715.<sup>7</sup>

Spanish exploration on the South Carolina coast began as early as 1514, and a landing party went ashore in the Port Royal vicinity (now Beaufort County) in 1520 at a spot they named Santa Elena.<sup>8</sup> This was not a permanent settlement; the first Spanish attempt at a permanent settlement on the South Carolina coast, in 1526, was at San Miguel de Gualdape. The location

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<sup>7</sup>John R. Swanton, *The Indian Tribes of North America*; *Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin 145* (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1952): 94-95, 103.

<sup>8</sup>Paul E. Hoffman, "Legend, Religious Idealism, and Colonies: The Point of Santa Elena in History, 1552-1556," *The South Carolina Historical Magazine* 84 (April 1983): 64; Rowland, "Alone on the River," 1.



of this settlement has long been in dispute, with opinions ranging from the Winyah Bay area, near Georgetown, as far south as St. Catherine's Sound in Georgia.<sup>9</sup> The French, under Jean Ribault, also attempted to establish a settlement on the South Carolina coast in 1562, called Charlesfort. Recent archaeological evidence indicates that Charlesfort was on what is now Parris Island in Beaufort County.

The French presence on the South Carolina coast drew the Spanish back, to protect their original interest. Spanish forces attacked Charlesfort and established their own settlement of Santa Elena in 1566, building it on top of the destroyed French settlement. Local Indians, the Cusabo, were unfriendly, but despite numerous attacks and several burnings, the Spanish settlers did not abandon Santa Elena until 1587.<sup>10</sup> The Spanish maintained their interest in Santa Elena as part of a series of missions on the sea islands from St. Augustine, Florida, through Georgia, and into South Carolina; Spanish friars were at "St. Ellens" when the English captain William Hilton visited the area in 1663.<sup>11</sup> During its twenty year existence, Santa Elena served as the base for the first serious explorations into the interior of the state.

### ***English Colonial Occupation***

Settlers in the Lowcountry were caught up in and were integral parts of wide-ranging disputes and rivalries among the English, French, Spanish, Indians, and African slaves. These disputes and rivalries encompassed nearly all of the Lowcountry, an area that spanned hundreds of miles from Georgetown, north of Charleston, south to St. Augustine. Spanish forces, after they had routed the French in East Florida in 1565, returned to Santa Elena in 1566. However, they abandoned their settlement at Santa Elena in the 1580s in favor of concentrating their forces at St. Augustine. This Spanish presence was a continual threat to the English settlers, particularly after the 1670s, when Spain learned of the Charles Towne settlement along the Ashley River.

King Charles II of England disregarded Spain's claim to the region, and in 1662 he granted Carolina to the Lords Proprietors, a group of wealthy and powerful investors. The next year, a group of Barbados planters with connections to the Lords Proprietors hired William Hilton to explore the acquisition. He spent over a month in the waters of both Port Royal and Santa Elena, leaving with a high opinion of the area's potential as a colony. Prompted by the account of tall pines and good soils, a small colony set out for Port Royal under the auspices of the Lords

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<sup>9</sup>Rowland et al., *History of Beaufort County*; see also Paul Quattlebaum, *The Land Called Chicora, the Carolinas under Spanish Rule with French Intrusions, 1520-1670* (Gainesville: The University of Florida Press, 1955).

<sup>10</sup>Eugene Lyon, "Santa Elena: A Brief History of the Colony, 1566-1587," *South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology Research Manuscript Series* 193; Rowland, "Eighteenth Century Beaufort," 25-57.

<sup>11</sup>James W. Covington, "Stuart's Town: The Yemassee Indians and Spanish Florida," *The Florida Anthropologist* 21 (1978):8-9; William Hilton, *A Relation of a Discovery Lately Made on the Coast of Florida* (1664; reprint ed., privately printed, 1995).

Proprietors. Tales of hostile Indians convinced them to move farther north, though, where they founded Charles Towne in 1670. One of the first orders of business for the settlers was initiating trade with the Indians as a way of ensuring both economic and physical survival.

Scottish dissenters established Stuart's Town on Port Royal Island in 1684; short-lived, it was destroyed by the Spanish in 1686. For the English settlers in Charles Towne, this cleared the Port Royal area of irksome Scots, and a series of land grants beginning in 1698 signaled a renewed English interest in settling Port Royal. A rush of settlers began to vie for the Indian trade in the Port Royal area in the first decade of the eighteenth century.<sup>12</sup>

The Town of Beaufort emerged during these early years, when tensions among the English, French, and Spanish were still strong. The English in the early eighteenth century, like the Spanish in the sixteenth century, discovered that Port Royal Island was a valuable defensive position for the inland waterway between Spanish St. Augustine and English Charles Town. Between 1703 and 1706, a small garrison evolved into a town where military men, cattle traders, planters, merchants, naval stores producers, and Indian traders could gather. The Lords Proprietors agreed, and the town of Beaufort was chartered in 1711. It was made a seaport, subject to the Navigation Acts which regulated British overseas commerce.<sup>13</sup> St. Helena Parish, which included all of Granville County, was created in 1712 to center in Beaufort, and St. Helena Parish Church was begun between 1724 and 1726.

Beaufort was a planned town, clearly in the tradition of European and early American town planning. While towns were often a focus of early colonial efforts, the grand dreams of English and European colonial administrators in the seventeenth century for cities in the wilderness were never completed.<sup>14</sup> By the early eighteenth century, however, town planning in the New World became a more viable option as the resources and population increased and as threats from native inhabitants decreased. These New World town plans drew upon Old World ideas that had been developing from the late medieval era, and which gained momentum during the Renaissance in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. While there were variations, a general pattern had emerged by the early seventeenth century in which towns and cities were planned with rectangular boundaries and straight streets intersecting at right angles, with major and minor streets, central and subsidiary squares, and public buildings that formed the end of the axis of major streets.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>12</sup>Viginia Holmgren, *Hilton Head: A Sea Island Chronicle* (Hilton Head Island, SC: Hilton Head Island Publishing, 1959), 42. See also Rowland et al., *History of Beaufort County*, 80-82.

<sup>13</sup>Rowland et al., *History of Beaufort County*, 88-92.

<sup>14</sup>John W. Reps, *Town Planning in Frontier America* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1969), 1-2.

<sup>15</sup>*Ibid.*, 13-22.

Beaufort's creators envisioned a simple plan, one which utilized the narrow head of land in a bend of the Beaufort River. The Plan of Beaufort that appears as a side panel in an early map of North and South Carolina shows a rectangle intersected by evenly-sized streets forming a grid pattern. There are only two breaks in this tight grid. There is a clear wharf area at the southern tip of the city, where the blocks combined in large areas and where wharves extended into the water. The other break in the grid pattern is one small public square in the south-central part of the town two blocks north of the main wharf area. This square, located at the intersection of what is now Craven and Carteret Streets, remained as the site for Beaufort's public buildings into the late nineteenth century. This was a very modest and unpretentious plan, which did not seem to indicate grand plans of an important city. Town lots continued to be sold throughout the eighteenth and into the nineteenth century.<sup>16</sup>

The economic development of Beaufort District outside of the new town began in the early eighteenth century with cattle ranching. The climate in South Carolina allowed for year-round grazing, and the many necks of land surrounded by rivers and creeks along the coast provided naturally bounded cowpens and allowed the cattle to range freely. Cattle ranching was also a low-capital industry, with a natural market in the West Indies sugar plantations. Cattle ranching in South Carolina began in the late seventeenth century in the Charleston area, and by the early eighteenth century it had extended into what is now Colleton County, between the Edisto and Combahee rivers. Many of the early settlers and prominent families in the Port Royal area, such as the McPhersons, Bryans, Bellingers, Brays, and Bulls, made their first money in cattle. In the Beaufort District, Richard Harris had one of the earliest cattle plantations, on Williman Island.<sup>17</sup>

While cattle ranching was an ideal frontier industry, it required great amounts of open land. Large purchases of land in Beaufort County and throughout the Lowcountry created problems between the white settlers and the Yamasee Indians, whose lands were steadily and rapidly encroached upon. By the time that the town of Beaufort was chartered in 1711, the Yamasee Indians had ten villages in what are now Beaufort and Jasper Counties. Angered by mistreatment from traders and encroachments on their land, the Indians attacked in the Yamasee War in 1715 but did not succeed in dislodging the English.<sup>18</sup> While the Yamasee staged a number of successful raids through the 1720s, by 1728 the English had routed them and made the area more accessible for renewed English settlement.

The town of Beaufort was initially little more than an entrepot, a gathering place for merchants and traders that had access to the coastal shipping routes. It took a number of years for it to be established as a port and market town. Settlement in the hinterland waited upon two developments. The end of the Yamasee threat in 1728 and the creation of Georgia in 1732 as

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<sup>16</sup>Colin Brooker, *Architectural and Archaeological Investigation at 802 Bay Street, Beaufort, South Carolina* (Brooker Architectural Design Consultants, 1996), 6-10.

<sup>17</sup>Rowland et al., *History of Beaufort County*, 85-88.

<sup>18</sup>Covington, "Stuart's Town," 12.

a buffer between the English colonies and the Spanish in Florida made movement into the rural areas inland from Beaufort safe, while the emergence of rice and indigo in the region's economy made it profitable.

The Lowcountry pattern of economic development, in which wealthy families controlled large tracts of land along river frontage, did not lend itself to the formation of towns. Eighteenth century maps show no towns or communities other than Beaufort; instead, individual family names roughly evenly spaced throughout the area characterize the landscape. Robert Johnson, the first Royal Governor of the colony in the 1730s after the overthrow of the Lords Proprietors in 1719-20, sought to change this situation by creating a series of townships throughout the back country. He encouraged settlement in these areas through an extension of the headright system, which apportioned fifty acres to every settler. Purrysburgh, founded in the 1730s, was the principal township in what became the Beaufort District; along the Savannah River, it was in what is now Jasper County. Other small settlements and communities grew up at the ferries and bridges in the District. Beaufort remained the only town of note in the entire District.

With land in Beaufort's hinterland more available, wealthy South Carolina families began moving into the area between the Combahee and Coosawhatchie rivers. This marshy area was fed by slow-moving fresh-water streams and rivers, including the Pocotaligo, Tullifinny, Coosawhatchie, and Combahee rivers, making it ideal for rice plantations. The Bulls, Bellingers, Izards, and others worked quickly in the 1730s to purchase and develop these lands for rice cultivation. They brought in great numbers of African slaves to carry out the grueling work of clearing the land and preparing the inland rice fields; during the 1730s, Beaufort District was transformed from one with a predominantly white population to one with a predominantly black population.<sup>19</sup>

Rice was complemented by the introduction of indigo as a cash crop in South Carolina in the 1740s. Indigo became one of the colony's principal exports. While rice generally did not grow well on the sea islands, indigo was successful and provided a strong economic base for the area. Indigo was first grown in the colony in 1740, by Eliza Pinckney near Charleston. In 1744 the Pinckneys gave small quantities of the seed to many local planters and indigo soon became a common, and very profitable, crop. Some planters were able to double their capital every three to four years. The volume of exports reached its peak in 1755 when 303,531 pounds of indigo blocks were exported from Charleston. As in Charleston, indigo was the most important crop in the Beaufort County sea islands between the 1750s and the Revolutionary War. It is important to note also that indigo, unlike rice, was grown by the smaller plantation owners and the middle class farmers. Much of the indigo produced in Beaufort County was produced on farms of under 1,000 acres, and was supplemented by the sale of other small crops and livestock.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> see Rowland et al., *History of Beaufort County*, chapter 6, for an extended treatment of this pattern of settlement.

<sup>20</sup> Rowland et al., *History of Beaufort County*, 162-171.

Indigo was processed on the plantations in relatively small operations, compared to what was required for rice. The indigo leaves were processed into blocks on the plantations, and each plantation would generally have an indigo vat, usually made of cypress but occasionally brick or tabby. The indigo was processed by letting it sit in water in one bay of the vat. When the water had absorbed the dye from the plants, it was drained into another bay where it was first agitated and then allowed to stand. When the blue sediment had settled to the bottom of the bay the water was drained off and the blue sediment gathered and dried into bricks. Most of these vats have disappeared from the landscape of Beaufort County. The vats were often made of perishable materials. One vat has been found on what was once known as Burlington Plantation on Port Royal Island, containing four bays and constructed of tabby, and largely intact (site number 290 0432) (see Figure 21).<sup>21</sup> It is an extremely important survivor of this crucial era in Beaufort County's history.

While cattle ranching in northern Beaufort County never fully recovered from the attacks suffered during the Yamasee War, it flourished during the middle and later eighteenth century in southern Beaufort County, especially on the sea islands. The barrier islands, especially what is now Hunting Island, were ideal cattle grazing lands in the eighteenth century, and beef and hides from sea island cattle plantations along with rice from the new plantations in Prince Williams Parish were the basis of a shipping trade between Beaufort and the West Indies sugar plantations.<sup>22</sup>

The production of goods, even agricultural goods, for market requires access to the markets. Roads and ferries were an important part of Beaufort County's early development. Historic maps show a network of roads in the Lowcountry by the eve of the Revolutionary War in the 1770s. The pattern of roads in what is now Beaufort County bears a strong similarity to that of the late eighteenth century. The Mouzon map of 1775 shows a single road connecting the town of Beaufort to northern Port Royal Island. Near Whale Branch Creek the road splits, the eastern branch extending across the Creek to what is now Garden's Corner, the western branch passing through what is now Seabrook to Sheldon. From Garden's Corner another road heads to the northeast toward the Combahee River; on the Mouzon map this crossing is indicated as "Combay Ferry," while on the Boss-Brailsford map, also of 1775, this crossing is shown as "Randor." A denser network of roads is shown on both maps in northern Beaufort County, above Garden's Corner, particularly in the area between the Combahee and Tullifinny rivers. Several names are indicated in this area, corresponding to the rice plantations that were emerging in this fertile land.

The town of Beaufort featured merchants and planters, several of whom also had interests in the active ship-building trade near Beaufort. Their field of activity generally was the sea islands near Beaufort. Lady's Island provides a good example of these late seventeenth and early

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<sup>21</sup>See Keith Stephenson, Bruce G. Harvey, and Eric C. Poplin, *Archaeological Survey of the Burlington Plantation Tract, Beaufort County, South Carolina*, Brockington and Associates, Inc., 1998.

<sup>22</sup>Rowland et al., *History of Beaufort County*, 153-154.

eighteenth century developments. Governor Joseph Blake had secured a warrant for what was then Combahee Island in 1698, and the island was later named Lady's Island in honor of his widow, Elizabeth Axtell Blake. Elizabeth Blake was the daughter of Lady Rebecca Axtell, who with her daughter owned Newington Plantation in Dorchester County ( a National Register of Historic Places site) and an additional 500 acres on Lady's Island. Records for Newington Plantation indicated that the Axtells produced a significant amount of beef; it is likely that they did the same on their Lady's Island settlement.<sup>23</sup>

Boat building was an important aspect of Lady's Island during the eighteenth century. Records in the South Carolina Archives indicate that three large ship were built on Lady's Island in 1766.<sup>24</sup> The site for this boat building was Factory Creek, located on the western side of Lady's Island facing the town of Beaufort. This was one of four such boat building sites in Beaufort County, along with Spanish Point and Skull Creek on Hilton Head Island and Bloody Point on Daufuskie Island.<sup>25</sup> These boat works were temporary settlements that did not create towns.

Smaller boats were crucial to transportation in Beaufort, particularly the sea islands. Ferries connected one island with another and with the mainland. Lady's Island had two ferries, one between Whitehall Point on the island and the town of Beaufort, and another between it and St. Helena's Island. The ferry from Whitehall Point to Beaufort was officially vested in William Harvey in 1767, who owned land on both the Beaufort and Lady's Island sides. Residents on Lady's and St. Helena's Islands had petitioned the General Assembly for a bridge or causeway in the 1740s, as a security measure. The islands were in danger of attack from Spanish and French privateers, who "might land their boats and cut off many families before any assistance would come from neighboring companies (of militias) for want of communications between Lady's Island and St. Helena."<sup>26</sup> Instead of a bridge, they had to be content with a ferry.

The planters of these outlying areas also developed churches. Some of the churches remain among the county's important historic resources. Churches accompanied the increased population, particularly in Prince William Parish. The Stoney Creek congregation, with its church building on the Kings Highway along the Pocotaligo River, was comprised of dissenting, non-Anglican members beginning in the 1740s. This church no longer exists. Prince William Parish church, now known as Old Sheldon Church (site number 470 0049), was located on Tomotley Plantation lands donated by the Bellinger family (Figure 2). The Bull family, along with public funds from the colonial government, largely funded the construction of the church in the 1750s. The other outlying parish, St. Luke's, was created in 1767. Its first church was built

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<sup>23</sup>Rowland et al., *History of Beaufort County*, 82, 87.

<sup>24</sup>R. Nicholas Olsbery, ed., "Ship Registers in the South Carolina Archives, 1734-1780," *South Carolina Historical Magazine* 74 (1973):189-299.

<sup>25</sup>Rowland et al., *History of Beaufort County*, 185.

<sup>26</sup>Quoted in Rowland et al., *History of Beaufort County*, 151.

in 1786, also with Bull family support. The church in its early years was occasionally known as Bull Hill Church, the land for the church having been a part of John Bull's Bull Hill Plantation.<sup>27</sup> This church no longer remains, having been replaced in the 1820s by the present St. Luke's Church (site number 251 0045).

Religious development in the town of Beaufort during the eighteenth century focused on the Church of England. The Church of England was the established church in Beaufort County, as it was throughout South Carolina after the Church Act of 1706. The Anglican parishes in South Carolina served as political jurisdictions, and the parish church was supported by taxes. As the historian Sydney Ahlstrom has noted, "Southern Anglicanism became a dominant tradition not by force of popular vitality, but because of governmental support and the social prominence of its membership."<sup>28</sup> The town of Beaufort lay within St. Helena Parish after 1712, and St. Helena Parish Church was begun between 1724 and 1726.<sup>29</sup>

No other Christian denomination saw such a level of organization in the eighteenth century as the Church of England. The Methodist reformer John Wesley passed through in late 1737 on his way from Savannah to Charleston, but he never preached in Beaufort. Despite at least two visits from the great Methodist evangelist George Whitefield, in July 1740 and May 1754, the Methodists did not establish a church in Beaufort in the eighteenth century.<sup>30</sup> The Presbyterians had little more success in the eighteenth century, other than the Stoney Creek Independent Church in Prince Williams Parish. There was some Presbyterian preaching in Beaufort by 1756, but residents failed in their attempts to build a new church in 1770, and Beaufort had no Presbyterian church until 1831.<sup>31</sup> The Baptists had a center of activity at the Euhaws Church near Coosawhatchie (now in Jasper County), which was formed in the 1730s and grew through the 1740s and 1750s. There were no institutional offshoots of the Euhaws Church into what is now Beaufort County before the Revolutionary War.

A growing population also generated the need for political representation. St. Helena Parish had been established in 1712. Prince William Parish, between the Combahee and

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<sup>27</sup>Cynthia Cole, *Historic Resources of the Lowcountry: A Regional Survey of Beaufort County, S.C., Colleton County, S.C., Hampton County, S.C., Jasper County, S.C.* (Yemassee, SC: Lowcountry Council of Governments, 1979), 72.

<sup>28</sup>Sydney E. Ahlstrom, *A Religious History of the American People* (Garden City, NY: Doubleday & Co., Inc., 1975), 254.

<sup>29</sup>Cole, *Historic Resources of the Lowcountry*, 47.

<sup>30</sup>Albert Deems Betts, "Historical Sketch of Methodism in Beaufort, South Carolina," *Beaufort Gazette*, 18 August 1922; in Beaufort County Library, South Carolina Room, Vertical Files.

<sup>31</sup>"Beaufort Church" [Presbyterian], typescript ms, Beaufort County Library, South Carolina Room, vertical files.

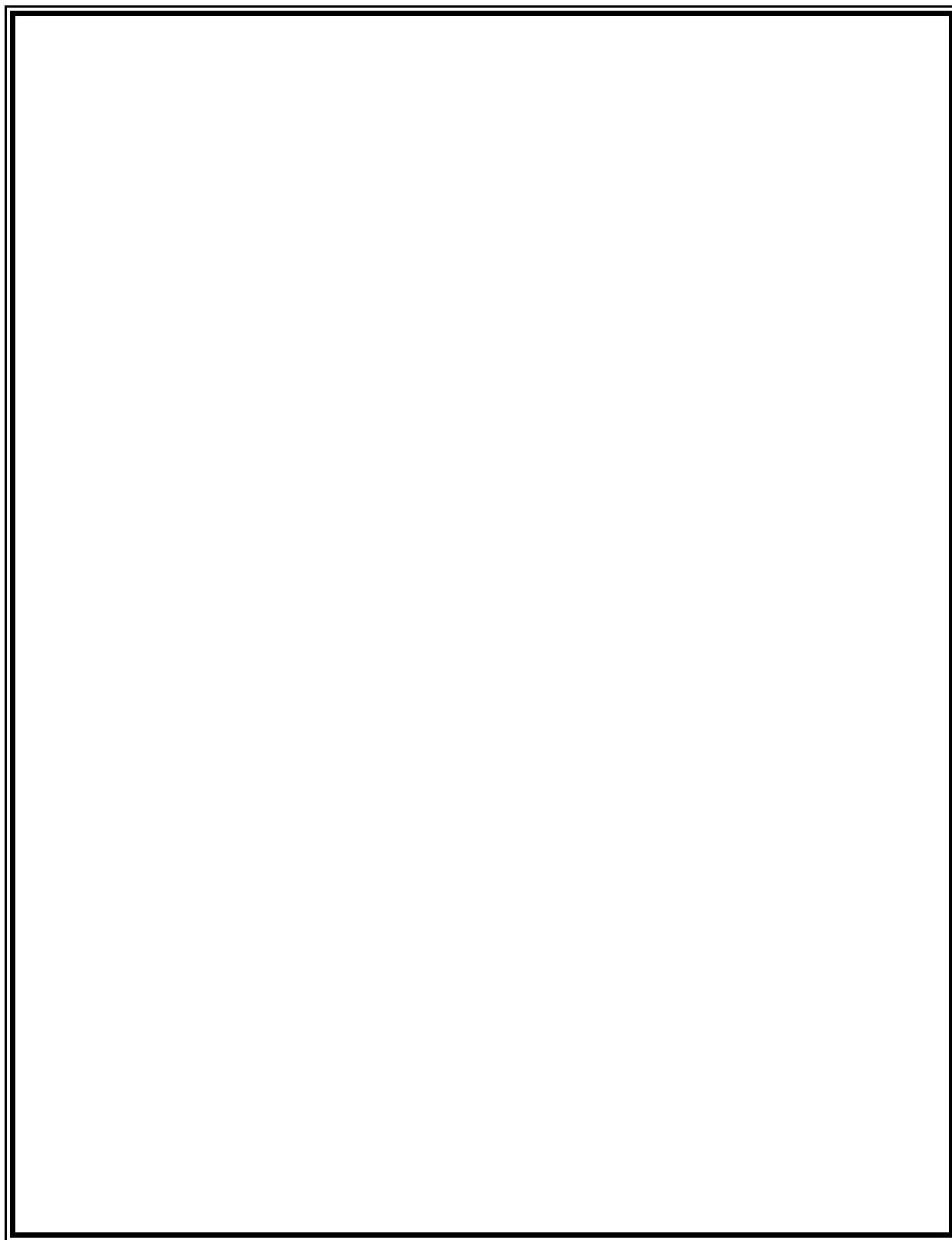


Figure 2. Ruins of Prince Williams Parish Church, c. 1750. Site number 470 0049.



Coosawhatchie rivers, and St. Peter's Parish, hugging the eastern shore of the Savannah River, were created in 1745 and 1747, respectively. The intervening area became St. Luke's Parish in 1767. The colonial act creating St. Luke's Parish was disallowed for political reasons by the British government, and as a result, the parish was never part of the Anglican Church's establishment in South Carolina. In fact, the Baptist church at the Euhaws was the first local house of worship when organized in 1745.<sup>32</sup> St. Luke's Parish finally became an electoral district in 1790.

### ***The Revolution and its Aftermath***

The American colonies declared their independence from Britain in 1776, following several years of increasing tension due to taxation and trade restrictions imposed by the British Parliament. South Carolinians were divided during the war, although most citizens ultimately supported the American cause.<sup>33</sup> Military activities began the same year, when Britain's Royal Navy attacked Fort Sullivan (later renamed Fort Moultrie) near Charleston. The British failed to take the fort, and the British defeat bolstered the morale of American revolutionaries throughout the colonies. The British military then turned their attention northward. They returned in 1778, however, besieging and capturing Savannah late in December.

Two months later, in February of 1779, British troops from Savannah attacked Port Royal Island. In late January 1779 a threatened British invasion led to the American abandonment of Fort Lyttleton on Spanish Point near Beaufort, Beaufort's only real protection. A small British flotilla then sailed up Skull Creek behind Hilton Head Island, burning plantations. The forces landed at Laurel Bay on Port Royal Island in early February, and turned to Beaufort. American forces under General William Moultrie turned the British forces into a retreat, but the loss of Fort Lyttleton left Beaufort and the sea islands essentially unprotected. Americans lost to the British under General Augustine Prevost at Coosawhatchie in March 1779, and this put the Americans in a retreat all the way to Charleston. When British forces under Prevost withdrew to Savannah after attempting to take Charleston that same year, the rear guard of his army occupied Beaufort.<sup>34</sup>

A major British expeditionary force landed on Seabrook Island during the winter of 1780, and then marched north and east to invade Charleston from its landward approaches.<sup>35</sup> The city

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<sup>32</sup>Helen Nettles, "Euhaw Baptist Church," in *A History of Savannah River Baptist Association*, ed. Michael Cresswell (Ridgeland: Savannah River Baptist Association, 1977), 55.

<sup>33</sup>Lawrence S. Rowland, "A Brief Overview of the History of St. Luke's Parish from 1685 to 1865," in *Bluffton Historical Preservation Society Report 1992/1993*.

<sup>34</sup>Rowland, "Eighteenth Century Beaufort," "A Brief Overview."

<sup>35</sup>Henry Lumpkin, *From Savannah to Yorktown: The American Revolution in the South* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1981), 42-46.

was captured in May after offering a weak defense. Charleston subsequently became a base of operations for British campaigns into the interior of South Carolina, Georgia, and North Carolina. However, the combined American and French victory over Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, Virginia, in 1782 effectively destroyed British military activity in the South and forced a negotiated peace.<sup>36</sup> The thirteen colonies gained full independence, and the British evacuated Charleston in December 1782.

The Port Royal area was hard hit by the armies that passed back and forth. A minister who fled the Port Royal area during the war described the changes when he returned at the end of the war. "All was desolation," he noted. "Every field, every plantation, showd [sic] marks of ruin and devastation. Not a person was to be met with in the roads. All was Gloomy [sic]....The people that remain have been peeled, pillaged, and plundered. Poverty, want, and hardship appear in almost every countenance."<sup>37</sup>

In the wake of the Revolutionary War, indigo lost its British subsidy and waned quickly as an important crop in Beaufort County, while sea island planters were beginning their experiments with long staple cotton. Rice provided a degree of economic continuity for Beaufort County after the War. It had grown quickly during the eighteenth century in its importance to the Lowcountry's economy. From 250,000 pounds in 1699, the colony exported 66,000,000 pounds in 1770.<sup>38</sup> With the development of new technologies, rice cultivation increased still further. The impact on the land was dramatic. The earliest rice cultivation in South Carolina took place on dry upland soil, while by the early eighteenth century planters had discovered that inland swamps would provide a valuable degree of irrigation and weed control. By mid-century, however, some planters began to experiment with another new technology which relied on the power of tides to raise river levels; this inundated crops with fresh water that would kill off the weeds. In order to do this, the process of radically altering the landscape was expanded as lands along the tidal rivers were drained, canals were built, and fields were surrounded by levees to control their access to the water.<sup>39</sup> This placed a high priority on geography, for only some rivers had tides strong enough to force tidal action up into the fresh water sections of the rivers. Salt water would destroy the rice, and only certain areas of certain rivers allowed for the proper balance between suitably strong tidal action and an acceptable supply of fresh water.

Duncan Clinch Heyward, the fifth generation of his family to plant rice in the Lowcountry, gave a useful description of the process and the difficulties of clearing the swamps in his 1937 memoirs:

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<sup>36</sup>Ibid.

<sup>37</sup>quoted in Robert M. Weir, *Colonial South Carolina: A History* (Millwood, NY: KTO Press, 1983), 336.

<sup>38</sup>McCurry, *Masters of Small Worlds*, 32.

<sup>39</sup>see Chaplin, *An Anxious Pursuit*, 227-276.

There were many large white gum, cedar, and cypress trees, and the dark alluvial soil was so soft that one could scarcely walk any distance upon it. To avoid sinking he would have to step from one root to another, or trust his weight to some treacherous tussock. Everywhere his progress was impeded by dense undergrowth, and his clothes and flesh torn by briars....The first step in reclaiming the swamp lands was to build a bank along the edge of the river, with both ends joined to strips of highland where they approached the river's edge, and through the bank to place trunks, similar to those used in the inland swamps, for the water to pass through. When the bank had been built and the trunks installed, the digging of the canals and ditches in the swamp followed. Then the trees and undergrowth had to be removed, the greatest undertaking of all. The trees were cut down and burned, but their stumps were never completely removed.<sup>40</sup>

The result was a distinctive landscape, which maps from the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries capture. Plats of rice plantations from the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century show a series of buildings, including rice machines, slave cabins, and the main house, that seem minor features in the midst of the pattern of rice canals and dams. The buildings constructed in conjunction with rice culture in Beaufort County have apparently all disappeared, while only few of the earthworks have survived in a recognizable form.

Long staple, or sea island, cotton was introduced in the Lowcountry in the 1790s. Various planters were experimenting with different strains of cotton which produced the long staple bolls.<sup>41</sup> Sea island cotton provided high market returns for planters on the sea islands throughout the antebellum period, despite periodic market fluctuations.<sup>42</sup> The fine, long staple (1.5-2.0 inches compared to 0.75-1.0 inch for upland cotton) was used to weave the finest laces and fabrics. The crop thrived on the soils of the sea islands, where by the 1820s farmers fertilized with marsh mud, eventually even reclaiming salt marshes for cotton fields. The diking and ditching necessary for this reclamation, and also to channel away torrential rains from the fields, created a flood control system nearly as extensive as that for rice.

According to the agricultural historian Lewis Gray,

[I]t was customary to "quarter-drain" the land; that is, divide it into square plots of ¼ acre by cross ditches about 105 feet apart, commonly spoken of as a "task."

The crop was planted on high ridges thrown up at distances of 3 to 6 feet, usually about 4 feet. In the old sea-island region the labor of throwing up the ridges and the entire work of cultivation were generally performed with the hoe until near the close of the

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<sup>40</sup>Duncan Clinch Heyward, *Seed from Madagascar*. With an introduction by Peter A. Coclanis (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1937; reprint, Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1989), 18-20.

<sup>41</sup>Chaplin, *An Anxious Pursuit*, 220-226.

<sup>42</sup>*Ibid.*, 280.

period. Many planters maintained permanent ridges, sometimes alternating them with provision crops. Others continued the older practice of hauling down the ridges into the baulks, bedding on the cotton stalks and other manures. In the last two decades of the ante bellum period the plow was more generally employed.<sup>43</sup>

The crop required greater care in production than the shorter stapled upland cotton, and underwent a number of different operations prior to being shipped.<sup>44</sup> These included planting, hoeing, picking, whipping, moting, ginning (initially by hand, then by treadle gins, and by the 1850s the larger and mechanized McCarthy Gin), and packing. Bale weights averaged 300 to 350 pounds, and actually were large, round sacks of cotton - not the square, higher compression bales used for upland cotton.<sup>45</sup> The wealth returned to the sea island and coastal planters of St. Helena and St. Luke's parishes as a result of this crop provided an opulent lifestyle that matched what the low country rice planters enjoyed. As one northern reporter observed, Beaufort and its environs, with money from both cotton and rice, was "the exclusive home of the most exclusive few of that most exclusive aristocracy."<sup>46</sup>

The natural geography of Beaufort County made possible the great changes of the artificial geography. Moreover, it made the artificial geography immensely profitable. Beaufort County had numerous rivers which were ideal for the tidal cultivation of rice. At the same time, the sea islands had ideal conditions for the cultivation of long staple, or sea island, cotton. Together, these two crops provided a powerful economic base for Beaufort County. Both crops were highly labor-intensive, and confirmed South Carolina's dependence on slave labor, much as tobacco had done in the Virginia colony during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Rice and cotton agriculture, in a slave-based plantation system, dominated the region until the Civil War.

### ***Antebellum Period***

The period between the close of the American Revolution and the beginning of the Civil War was characterized in South Carolina, and throughout the South, by plantation agriculture based on slave labor and the production of cotton. According to the first census of the United States, in 1790, the population of Beaufort District (encompassing modern-day Beaufort, Hampton, and Jasper Counties) was 18,753, of which 14,236 (75.9 per cent) were slaves. There

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<sup>43</sup>Lewis Cecil Gray, *History of Agriculture in the Southern United States to 1860* (Washington, DC: Carnegie Institute of Washington, DC, 1933), 734-735.

<sup>44</sup>Chaplin, *An Anxious Pursuit*, 224.

<sup>45</sup>Gray, *History of Agriculture in the Southern United States*, 735-737.

<sup>46</sup>quoted in Willie Lee Rose, *Rehearsal for Reconstruction: The Port Royal Experiment* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1964), xiv-xv.

were 4,364 whites (23.3 per cent), and 153 other free persons (0.8 per cent) in the district. With the enormous slave workforce, the agricultural output of Beaufort District was immense. In 1849 Beaufort produced more rice than any other area in North America.

Beaufort County's antebellum economy rested on the two pillars of rice and sea island cotton. Although rice remained an important crop along the major fresh water swamps and rivers of the South Carolina Lowcountry, the sea islands of Beaufort District were devoted to the cultivation of long staple cotton. The region surrounding the town of Beaufort was characterized by widely spaced plantations, some covering thousands of acres and worked by hundreds of slaves, dedicated to staple crops. In the mainland parishes of St. Peter's, St. Luke's, and Prince William, where freshwater swamps and rivers marked the land, rice reigned. Henry Middleton, for example, owned two plantations with nearly 600 slaves along the Combahee River, while Daniel Heyward's Heyward Plantation on the Pocotaligo River was worked by over 100 slaves. In St. Helena Parish, meanwhile, particularly on the sea islands, long staple cotton provided equally immense fortunes. Ebenezer Coffin, a New Englander who arrived in Beaufort District in the 1790s, established Coffin Point Plantation on St. Helena Island. Coffin's house (site number 442 0011) (Figure 3), built in 1800, still stands, though the cotton house, kitchen, and row of slave cabins have all gone. By 1850, the plantation covered 2,911 acres and was worked by approximately 300 slaves. Frogmore Plantation on St. Helena Island, meanwhile, was created by the Bull family in 1730 and was owned by absentee owners into the 1830s. William J. Grayson then purchased the plantation and turned it into the most productive sea island cotton plantation in Beaufort District with 170 slaves working 900 improved acres, producing corn, peas, beans, sweet potatoes, and, of course, sea island cotton.<sup>47</sup>

Not all of the plantations were far away from the town of Beaufort. What is now Boundary Street was indeed the boundary of the town; beyond it lay several smaller farms and plantations, many of which existed until the end of the nineteenth century. Retreat Plantation house (site number 025 0621), for example, was built in approximately 1760. Pickpocket Plantation remains partially within the city limits, on the west side of Battery Creek; two houses remained on the plantation site until recently, one built in the 1890s (site number 025 0627) and another built in 1936 (site number 025 0640). Plantations even closer to Beaufort included Barnwell's Farm immediately west of the Beaufort River and bounded south by Boundary Street, and Polly's Grove, which was further west and bounded to the south also by Boundary Street.<sup>48</sup> Much of the land that formed Polly's Grove was appropriated for use by the Federal government for a Federal cemetery after the Civil War, while the houses along Pigeon Point have replaced Barnwell's Farm.

The town of Beaufort retained its positions as the leading and the most highly developed resort and residential town for the region's planters. The only other towns of any commercial

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<sup>47</sup>Rowland et al., *History of Beaufort County*, 370.

<sup>48</sup>Beaufort County Deed Book (BCDB) 1:12.

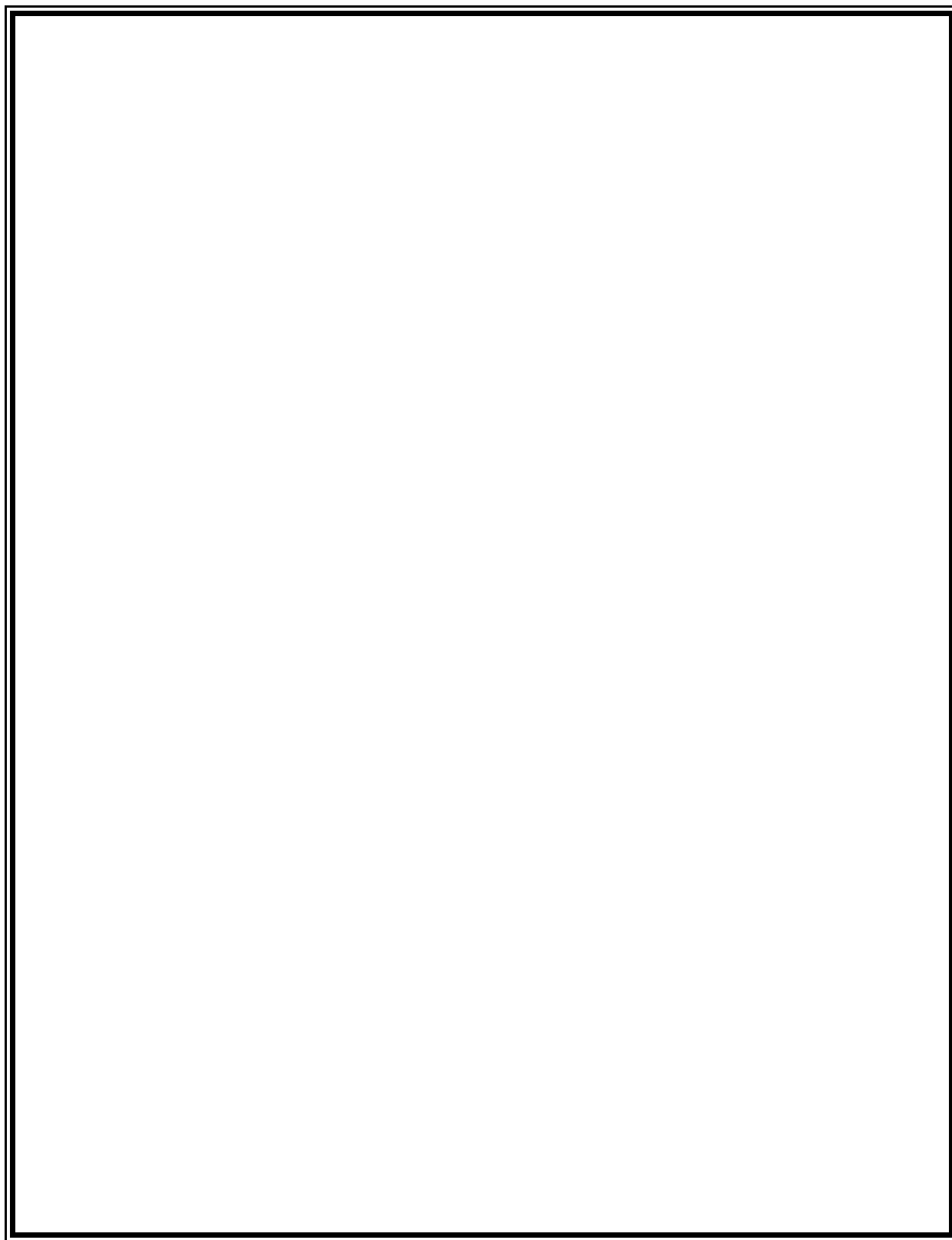


Figure 3. Coffin Point Plantation House, c. 1800. Site number 442 0011.

consequence in Beaufort District in 1826 were Purrysburg, Robertville, and Pocotaligo; all of these are now in Jasper County. Robert Mills observed of Pocotaligo that while it “was a considerable trading place before the revolution, [it] now contains only a few houses.”<sup>49</sup> Other, smaller, resort towns in the District included Bluffton, Grahamville, McPhersonville, Gillisonville, and Lawtonville; of these, only Beaufort and Bluffton remain in Beaufort County.

Beaufort served as the principal residence for many of Beaufort District’s planters. Health and comfort concerns generated a regular movement of the region’s white plantation residents, as the owners fled the plantations in the spring, and settled themselves in their townhouses in Beaufort or Charleston. Beaufort, Robert Mills was to note in 1826, “has always been remarkable for the health and longevity of its inhabitants.”<sup>50</sup> Prominent plantation families such as the Barnwells, Cuthberts, Elliotts, Verdiere, Coffins, Fripps, and others all built large and well-furnished houses along the bay in Beaufort. One visitor in the late 1840s noted that Beaufort was “a picturesque town composed of an assemblage of villas....[each of which was] shaded by a verandah, surrounded by beautiful live oaks and orange trees laden with fruits.”<sup>51</sup> It also served as a minor commercial center, with a cotton factor, a store, gins, and mills. Beaufort had no direct political role; Coosawhatchie, then Gillisonville, served as the court house sites from 1789 until after the Civil War.<sup>52</sup> Plantation owners continued to build their houses in the town for health and recreational purposes, not to be closer to the seat of politics in the District. By 1805, the town had a population of 656 whites, 944 blacks, and 186 students, all occupying 120 houses, thirteen stores, nine workshops, four schools, a college, a jail, an arsenal, lodging houses, and three churches.<sup>53</sup>

Bluffton, unlike Beaufort, was strictly a residential village, located on a bluff in a bend in the May River in St. Luke’s Parish. Planters began building modest houses there in the 1820s, and the community was given its present name in 1844; it was incorporated in 1852. Residents of St. Helena Island built their own health resort, St. Helenaville, on the seaward side of the island

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<sup>49</sup>Mills, *Statistics of South Carolina*, 370.

<sup>50</sup>quoted in Lawrence Fay Brewster, *Summer Migrations and Resorts of South Carolina Low-Country Planters* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1947), 14.

<sup>51</sup>Quoted in *ibid.*, 15.

<sup>52</sup>See the petition to move the Beaufort District courthouse from Beaufort to Coosawhatchie in 1787 in Michael E. Stevens and Christine M. Allen, eds., *Journals of the House of Representatives 1787-1788* (Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press for the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, 1981), 129-30; see the petition to move the courthouse from Coosawhatchie to Gillisonville in General Assembly Petitions (1784-1867), mss. on file at South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, South Carolina, 04800, 00127.

<sup>53</sup>Rowland et al., *History of Beaufort County*, 263.

during the antebellum era; by 1860, the town contained two churches and a dozen cottages along with cabins for servants.<sup>54</sup>

In the rural areas of Beaufort County, there were few independent commercial centers. Indeed, there were very few towns in Beaufort District before the Civil War, particularly ones that could support a store. The Mills Map of Beaufort District (1825) shows no villages in what is now Beaufort County other than Beaufort and Gardens Corner, while the Stoeber Map of Beaufort County (1873) shows only Beaufort, Port Royal, and Gardens Corner. According to one survey in 1854, Beaufort District, including what is now Beaufort, Jasper, and Hampton counties, had only twelve stores outside of Beaufort.<sup>55</sup> Instead of town centers, most commercial activities before the Civil War took place on individual plantations. No stores from this era survive in the rural areas of the county. In the City, two stores from before the Civil War remain, the DeSaussure Store (c. 1760, site number 025 0915) and the Captain Francis Saltus Store (c. 1796, site number 025 0979), both on Bay Street.

Evangelical religion emerged in Beaufort District during the early nineteenth century. The first signs came with the "Second Great Awakening," marked clearly by a revival at Black Swamp Baptist Church in 1803 which attracted over 1,000 faithful or curious people. Baptist churches in the Lowcountry, like those throughout the South, tended to draw from the landless whites and small landowners. The numbers of Baptists began to swell in the early years of the nineteenth century, and by the 1820s Baptists had the greatest number of churches in the District; despite their numerical advantage, however, they remained in the background in the public image behind the planter-dominated Episcopalians.<sup>56</sup> In 1831 Daniel Baker, a Savannah revivalist affiliated with the Presbyterian Church, conducted large revivals in Gillisonville and Grahamville. The Lowcountry became a heavily evangelical area during the next two decades, particularly among the yeomen. While many planters took part in this general revival, the majority of planters remained with the Episcopal Church; only one-third of the major planters (defined as 100 slaves or more) were among the three principal evangelical denominations: Methodist, Presbyterian, and Baptist.<sup>57</sup>

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<sup>54</sup>Ibid., 379-84.

<sup>55</sup>McCurry, *Masters of Small Worlds*, 96-97.

<sup>56</sup>One Catholic visitor to Beaufort argued that "All that was necessary to crown their earthly bliss was found in some accommodating type of Protestantism, promising a heavenly reward to a life of inactivity, luxury, and ease, more befitting the last days of Babylonish Empire, than a Christian people. The Church of England was preferred, both because of the absence of a radical element and its aristocratic bearing. It laid no claim to be the Church of the poor....If an apostate, who is always stung to the quick at the sight of any object capable of reminding him of his forfeited peace, wished to escape every remembrance of the Faith, no place could serve his purpose better than Beaufort." J.J. O'Connell, *Catholicity in the Carolinas and Georgia: Leaves of its History; A.D. 1820-A.D. 1878*. (original edition, Sadler, 1879; reprint ed., Westminster, MD: ARS SACRA, 1964), 170. See also Robert Mills, *Statistics of South Carolina*, 373.

<sup>57</sup>McCurry, *Masters of Small Worlds*, 165.



The evangelical impulse of the 1830s and 1840s was clearly represented in the construction of new churches in Beaufort and the surrounding areas. Baptists, for example, built two churches in the 1840s in Beaufort. Most Baptist activity in Beaufort District had been confined to what is now Jasper County during the early nineteenth century, with churches at Black Swamp, Coosawhatchie, and the Euhaws Baptist Church.<sup>58</sup> The Euhaws Church served as the principal source of Baptist activity in the Beaufort area, as it had mission stations at St. Helena, May River, Hilton Head, and Beaufort itself. Baptists built a small building in Beaufort in 1795 as a branch of the Euhaws Church, but a revival in the early years of the nineteenth century led to a larger congregation. The Baptist church in Beaufort became an independent congregation in 1804. The Baptist congregation grew to the point that a new church was needed, which was completed in 1844 under the leadership of the Reverend Richard Fuller (site number 025 1073).<sup>59</sup>

Two more Baptist churches were established during the later antebellum era. The original Euhaws Church had members on Lady's Island by the 1790s; by 1855 the congregation was great enough to justify building a new church, the Ladies Island Baptist Church (site 025 0426). In addition, planters on St. Helena Island had built the Brick Baptist Church, also in 1855 (site 182 0038.15). It was to be the site of the earliest education experiments for the newly freed slaves during the Civil War.<sup>60</sup>

The Presbyterians had a more tenuous presence in Beaufort during the early nineteenth century. An Independent Church of Beaufort was created in 1804; originally Congregational in nature, it was reincorporated 1813 as the Presbyterian Church of Beaufort. However, it seems to have died out by 1820. There is little evidence of Presbyterian activity between 1820 and 1860.<sup>61</sup>

Like the Presbyterians, the Methodist Church was not especially active in the town of Beaufort.<sup>62</sup> The Methodists were, however, active on the plantations on the sea islands. Beginning in the 1830s, Methodist missionaries began active work with the slave populations on the District's plantations. George Moore and John Coburn held services during the 1830s on Parris, St. Helena, Datha, Port Royal, Lady's, Hilton Head, and Daufuskie Islands. Despite these extensive missionary activities, only a few whites joined the church. Before Civil War, according

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<sup>58</sup>Michael D. Cresswell, ed., *A History of the Savannah River Baptist Association* (Ridgeland, SC: Savannah River Baptist Association, 1977), 11-13.

<sup>59</sup>Mills Klinghorn, "The Baptist Church of Beaufort," in Cresswell, ed., *A History of the Savannah River Baptist Association*, 39-46; Rowland et al., *A History of Beaufort County*, 411.

<sup>60</sup>*Ibid.*; Cole, *Historic Resources of the Lowcountry*, 63, 64; see also Willie Lee Rose, *Rehearsal for Reconstruction: The Port Royal Experiment* (NY: Oxford University Press, 1964).

<sup>61</sup>Joel Patrick, "The History of First Presbyterian Church; Beaufort, South Carolina; Organized May 19, 1912" (typescript ms; Beaufort County Library, South Carolina Room, vertical files, n.d.).

<sup>62</sup>Mills, *Statistics of South Carolina*, 373.

to one source, there were only 27 white Methodists in Beaufort District, most of them probably in the town of Beaufort. By this time, however, the Methodist mission covered 17 plantations, and had 181 members and 360 children under catechetical instruction. The planters, mostly of other denominations, contributed to the Methodist mission to the slaves.<sup>63</sup>

Eugene Genovese has explored the melding in the religious life of southern slaves of African cosmology and devotional life on the one hand and European-inspired evangelical Christianity on the other. Methodists and Baptists, with their acceptance of emotional appeals and their organizational flexibility, had the greatest appeal to plantation slaves. Even so, however, the reliance on formal sermons and the clear socio-political motivations of the white preachers limited the appeal of even these evangelical denominations. Instead, slaves sought to meet for their own religious services whenever possible, believing that their more spontaneous, emotional, and musical forms of praise were more meaningful. As Genovese has noted, “this pride, this self-respect, this astonishing confidence in their own spiritual quality, explain the slaves’ willingness to spend so much of their day of leisure at prayer meetings. Often they would hear the white preacher or the master himself on Sunday morning, but the ‘real meetin’ and the ‘real preaching’ came later, among themselves.” These prayer meetings, often held somewhat surreptitiously at the praise houses, featured communal movement (not, they argued, dancing, which was sinful), unison singing, and ring shouting.<sup>64</sup>

The Catholic Church gained an increased presence in the town of Beaufort during the antebellum years. Michael O’Connor emigrated to Beaufort from Ireland in the late 1820s. Under his leadership, a small congregation built St. Peter the Apostle Roman Catholic Church (site number 025 0893) on Carteret Street in 1846.<sup>65</sup> A Catholic presence was rare outside Beaufort, but a nineteenth century observer noted a few Catholics in Gardens Corner, “the site of a country store,” while there were others in Pocatigo, Gillisonville, and Coosawhatchie.<sup>66</sup> Before the Civil War there were occasional Catholic services at the Gillisonville court house, but “this mission is very thin, and there are few Catholics west of Barnwell except the children of Mrs. Pinckney at Walterboro, and a few in Beaufort.”<sup>67</sup>

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<sup>63</sup>Rowland et al., *The History of Beaufort County*, 355-358; Albert Deems Betts, “Historical Sketch of Methodism in Beaufort, South Carolina,” *Beaufort Gazette*, 18 August 1922; in Beaufort County Library, South Carolina Room, Vertical Files.

<sup>64</sup>Eugene D. Genovese, *Roll, Jordan, Roll: The World the Slaves Made* (NY: Random House, Inc., 1974), 233-237.

<sup>65</sup>O’Connell, *Catholicity in the Carolinas and Georgia*, 168-195; Cole, *Historic Resources of the Lowcountry*, 57.

<sup>66</sup>O’Connell, *Catholicity in the Carolinas and Georgia*, 177.

<sup>67</sup>*Ibid*, 183.

Amid such an aristocratic and agricultural setting, manufacturing and industrialization were only reluctantly granted small toe-holds. Until the 1840s, most planters were reluctant to dabble in mechanization, and the intensely rural setting of Beaufort District did not provide the concentrations of capital, labor, and market to foster manufacturing plants. The greatest antebellum symbol of industrialization was the Charleston and Savannah Railroad, first promoted in 1853. The leading planters in Beaufort District promoted and helped to fund this railroad, which was completed only on the very eve of the Civil War, in the spring of 1860.<sup>68</sup> The purposes for supporting this railroad, however, would have been to bolster the area's agricultural strength by allowing improved access to commercial markets.<sup>69</sup> This railroad skirted across the northern portion of Beaufort District, and lies outside the current Beaufort County. Beaufort County would not be connected by rail until after the Civil War.

### ***The Civil War***

Seven months after the successful Confederate attack on Fort Sumter in April 1861, Beaufort and the surrounding sea islands fell to Union forces. A Federal fleet attacked the harbor of Port Royal on 7 November 1861. Union forces made effective use of steamboat technology as their nineteen boats repeatedly steamed past Fort Walker on the northern end of Hilton Head Island in a tight elliptical formation, bombarding as they passed. While they originally stayed out of firing range for the Confederate shells, the Federal ships steamed closer to the coast with each pass. After five hours of bombardment Fort Walker surrendered. When Confederate forces learned of Fort Walker's surrender they determined the defense of the harbor impossible and ordered the retreat from Fort Beauregard on Port Royal Sound's eastern shore.<sup>70</sup> Sea island plantation owners fled to the mainland, leaving behind a slave populace, many of whom were convinced they would soon be free.<sup>71</sup>

While Union forces occupied Beaufort and the sea islands that surrounded the town, the northern part of the Beaufort District was a prize that eluded them until the end of the war. The commercial potential of the just-completed Charleston and Savannah Railroad quickly swung to military and strategic potential in the early years of the Civil War as it provided the only reasonably safe coastal communication, given the presence of the Federal fleet in the ocean. It was most vulnerable in the northeastern part of Jasper and Beaufort Counties where it came close

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<sup>68</sup>Rowland et al., *History of Beaufort County*, 391-393.

<sup>69</sup>For insights on the relation between southern planters and commercial and industrial improvement, see Vicki Vaughn Johnson, *The Men and the Vision of the Southern Commercial Conventions* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1992).

<sup>70</sup>Robert Carse, *The Department of the South: Hilton Head Island in the Civil War* (Columbia, SC: Columbia State Printing Company, 1961), 11; *Official Records of the War of the Rebellion [OR]* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1901), Volume I(6), 27-29.

<sup>71</sup>Rose, *Rehearsal for Reconstruction*, 11-12.

to the Coosawhatchie, Tullifinny, and Pocotaligo rivers. Confederate engineers, under the command of Robert E. Lee who was based at Coosawhatchie and using slave labor requisitioned from nearby plantations, soon erected a series of defenses along the necks formed by these rivers. These fortifications were constructed according to engineering plans that were part of standard military training. Men such as D.H. Mahan and H. Wager Halleck produced textbooks of strategy that all cadets at West Point studied. These books outlined the methods of construction and placement of fortifications.<sup>72</sup> Five of these fortifications remain in Beaufort County, all of them near Yemassee and Sheldon, except one along the Combahee River (site numbers 470 0415, 470 0417, 551 0303, 569 0168, and 569 0284).

The entire Port Royal area was occupied by Federal troops in November 1861. In addition to troops, civilians from the northeast swarmed over the islands, especially St. Helena, by March 1862. The area surrounding Port Royal Sound served as the first proving ground for Reconstruction policy toward the freedmen. In the early part of the war, many policy makers and influential people in the North did not believe that the liberated slaves would labor without being forced to do so. Policies quickly changed, however, and the US Army, Department of the South, issued General Orders No. 9 in February 1862 which set up districts to oversee plantation work and provided for educational and religious instruction to the former slaves.<sup>73</sup> While the Civil War raged about them, northern missionaries and investors (often combined in the same people) arrived in Beaufort and the sea islands to take over the abandoned plantations and take charge of the newly freed slaves. Their goal was to prove that free laborers were more productive than slaves. In order to do this many of the "Gideonites," as they were called at the time, enforced the continued planting of sea island cotton, at a time when many of the freedmen wished to plant more subsistence and truck crops. The Boston engineer Edward Philbrick created the most visible experiment. Using Coffin Point Plantation (site 442 0011) as his base, his laborers planted generally successful cotton crops in 1862, 1863, and 1864.

The reformers also sought to provide education to the freedmen, along with opportunities for free labor. A host of northern missionary and freedmen's aid societies sent teachers to Beaufort and St. Helena Island. Of these, the most famous and well-known was Laura Towne (1825-1901) who represented the Philadelphia Port Royal Relief Committee. Towne had arrived with the first band of Gideonites, and remained on St. Helena Island through the rest of the nineteenth century. She, along with Ellen Murray (1834-1908) was instrumental in establishing a school for black children on St. Helena Island which met first at Oaks Plantation (site 182 0385) on St. Helena Island in June 1862, then at the Brick Baptist Church (site 182 0038.15). The school soon outgrew the confines of the church, and she had sent down from Philadelphia a prefabricated school building, that was erected at the present site of Penn Center in 1864. This schoolhouse,

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<sup>72</sup>see D.H. Mahan, *A Complete Treatise on Field Fortification* ([NY]: Wiley & Long, 1836; reprint, Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishers, 1969); Mahan, *A Treatise on Field Fortifications* (NY: John Wiley, 1862). See also H. Wager Halleck, *Elements of Military Art and Science* (NY: D. Appleton & Company, 1846; reprint, Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishers, 1971).

<sup>73</sup>OR, Volume I(6), 222-223

a one-story building with a cupola for the school bell, has not survived.<sup>74</sup> It was, however, the first building of what became the Penn School (site 182 0038).

Hilton Head Island was another focus of activity during the Civil War, as it served as Union Army Headquarters during the early 1860s, and also affected nearby islands. A key figure in this development was the Superintendent of Building on Hilton Head Island, Duncan C. Wilson. When General Rufus Saxton ordered the resettlement of freedmen who were camped around Beaufort in 1863, Wilson oversaw the construction of 400 timber framed houses in three months, “giving accommodation to 1200 persons” on St. Helena Island.<sup>75</sup> None of these early standardized timber frame buildings are thought to remain, but D.C. Wilson’s activities as an exporter of lumber by schooner from Beaufort to New York during the 1870s is documented as are his activities as mill owner, contractor, and railroad promoter. One artifact remains of his work, the extensions made to the John A. Cuthbert House on Bay Street in Beaufort (site number 025 1153), which Wilson probably added after he purchased the property from Rufus Saxton in 1882.

Congress passed a Direct Tax law in August 1861, and an enforcement provision in June 1862. This placed a levy on all properties held by the Confederates in the sea islands. The owners were given 60 days to pay the taxes, plus penalties, or the property would be sold. Few if any levies were paid by their owners, who had fled at the Union occupation of Port Royal. One owner is on record as remaining longer than the rest, however. In June 1863, Noah Brooks, a northern newspaperman in Beaufort, was “comfortably housed in the hospitable quarters of Ralph Trembly, an old Californian...who now occupies a fine old mansion owned by the only loyal resident of Beaufort, a Mr. Fyler, who faithful among the faithless, clung to his flag and refused to fly before ‘the invaders.’ He has his family in the North now....”<sup>76</sup> All of the land in St. Helena Parish and a portion of those in St. Luke’s were confiscated. The land was advertised for sale in January 1863. The Direct Tax land auctions were a point of contention among the reformers who were working with the freedmen in Beaufort District. Many of these reformers, such as Laura Towne, were dismayed by the government’s intention to sell the lands in tracts of up to 320 acres. The competition for such large tracts would almost inevitably exclude freedmen from the chance to own land, one of the tenets of the “Port Royal Experiment.” As the historian Willie Lee Rose has noted, “Most missionaries felt that the freedmen were entitled to some preference in the disposition of the lands whereon they had toiled so long without recompense.”<sup>77</sup>

The results of two proposed alternatives can be seen on the tax survey maps which were completed after the sale of lands in March 1863. Laura Towne convinced General David Hunter,

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<sup>74</sup>Rose, *Rehearsal for Reconstruction*, chapter 11; Carolyn A. Wallace et al., *Guide to the Microfilm Edition of the Penn School Papers 1862-1976* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Library, 1977), 7-8.

<sup>75</sup>*The Free South* (Beaufort, SC), 9/19/1863.

<sup>76</sup>“Occupied Beaufort, 1863: A War Correspondent’s View,” in *South Carolina Historical Magazine* vol. 64.

<sup>77</sup>Rose, *Rehearsal for Reconstruction*, 211.

the Commander of the Department of the South, to make the requirement that the government reserve some of the lands for government and charitable uses; as a result, of the 76,775 acres that were sold at auction, 60,296 (or 78 percent) went to the US Government for military, educational, and charitable purposes. Many tracts labeled “School Farm” can be found on the tax survey maps, tracts that were used for educational purposes on behalf of the freedmen. Many of these tracts, however, were sold at pre-emption sales in 1864; again, little land was reserved for the freedmen. At the same time, Edward Philbrick worked to create a joint-stock company based in Boston that bought land at the auction. This company bought eleven cotton plantations and leased two others from the government, thus, as Rose has noted, “gaining possession of one-third of St. Helena Island and indirect control over nearly a thousand people who lived upon the land.”<sup>78</sup> Several large tracts with Philbrick’s name on them appear on the tax survey maps.

One result of Federal land confiscation and redistribution was that lands north and west of the town of Beaufort were opened to development. The Federal government itself led the way, appropriating twenty-nine acres located north of what was then termed Shell Road (now Boundary Street), for a military cemetery (site 025 1401) (Figure 4). According to the original survey prepared for the Direct Tax Commission, the tract was known as Polly’s Grove before its sale at auction on 11 March 1863.<sup>79</sup> The same survey designates an area immediately west of the Cemetery as Higgensonville, a new village designed to accommodate freedmen; this village failed to materialize in any recognizable form, and part of the designated area is now occupied by Mercy Cemetery (site number 025 1398).

Another result of the Federal land confiscation and sale was the origin of the Town of Port Royal. The lands south of the town of Beaufort, where Battery Creek and the Port Royal River meet, had been private plantations before the Civil War. In 1863, however, S.W. Bennett purchased the Battery Plantation, where the Town of Port Royal now lies. In 1866 Bennett turned the land over to Henry Freeman of New York, who in turn sold the land to Daniel Appleton of New York. This land formed the bulk of what became the Town of Port Royal in 1874.<sup>80</sup>

Reformers hoped that the Port Royal experiment would prepare freedmen for land ownership and stimulate economic independence through agriculture. General William T. Sherman issued Special Field Order 15 in January 1864, which designated all the coastal land between Charleston and Jacksonville for thirty miles inland for exclusive freedmen’s settlements. When the Civil War came to a close, however, the experiment was over, and the lenient policies of President Andrew Johnson allowed former owners to make an oath of loyalty and reclaim their land. Not all of the gains made by Beaufort County’s freedmen were dashed, however. Freedmen

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<sup>78</sup>Ibid., 215.

<sup>79</sup>National Archives, Record Group 58.

<sup>80</sup>Gerhard Spieler, “A Brief History of the Town of Port Royal, S.C.: From 1562 to Modern Times,” unpublished ms., 1992.

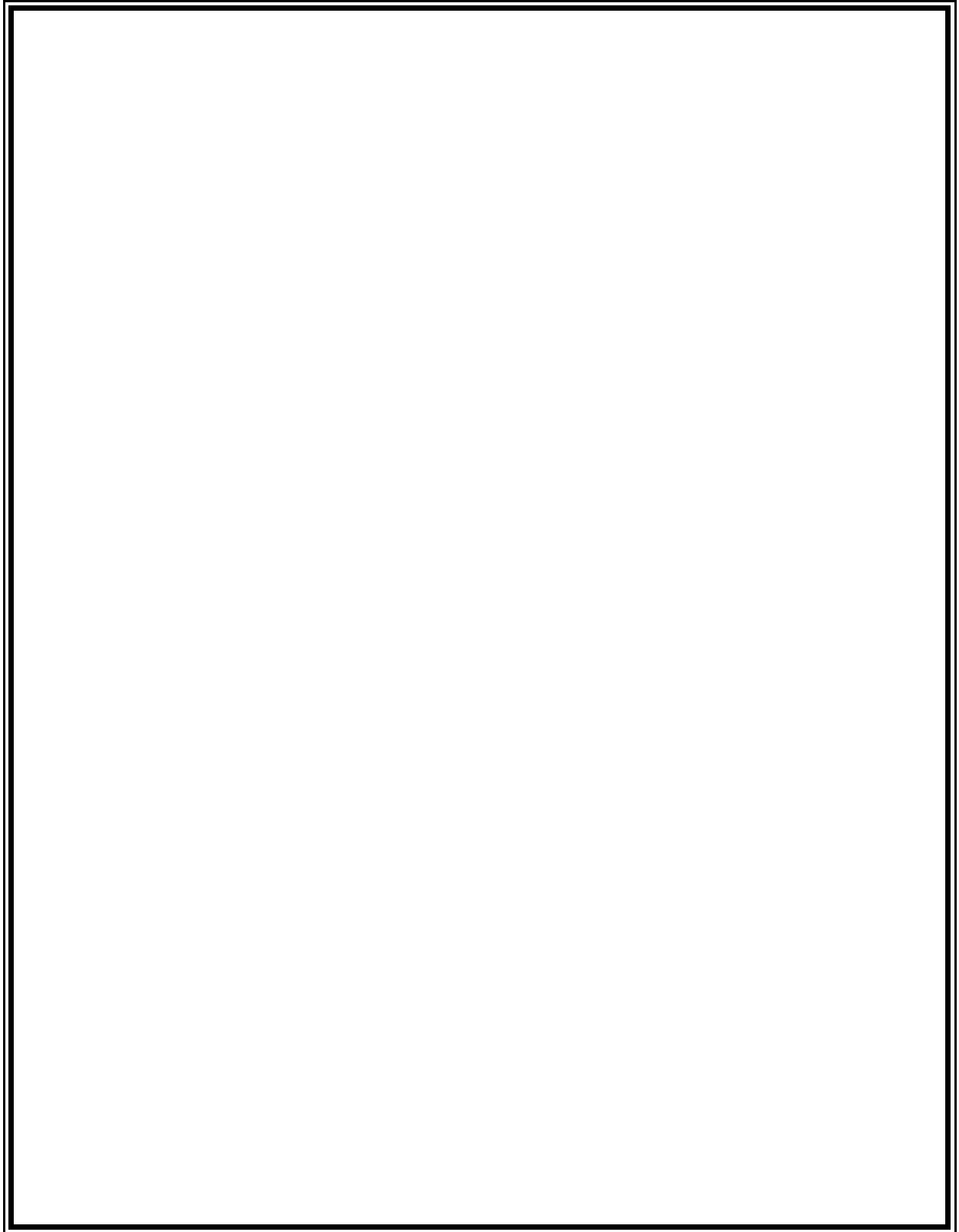


Figure 4. Portion of 1865 Map of Beaufort Showing the Federal Cemetery and Higgensonville.

were now able to congregate more freely than before, resulting in the creation of several new churches. The First Jericho Baptist Church (site number 025 0622), for example, was built by and for African Americans on what had been Myrtle Bush Plantation probably in the mid-1870s.<sup>81</sup>

### ***Postbellum Adaptations***

Beaufort District became Beaufort County in 1868, under the new state constitution which redesignated South Carolina's judicial districts. Ten years later Hampton County was created from northern and western Beaufort County. Jasper County was then created from southern Hampton County in 1912, thus containing what was, prior to 1878, western Beaufort County.

Administrative changes were among the least of the transformations experienced by Beaufort County residents in the aftermath of the Civil War. The overwhelming number of blacks in the county enjoyed more complete political participation, for a longer period of time, than African Americans elsewhere in the state; they were led by a former slave, war hero, and congressman, Robert Smalls. Nearly every southern county with a substantial black population had black local officials; in Beaufort, the mayor, police force, and magistrates were all black. Most of the county's officeholders were African Americans well into the 1880s, and the congressional district of which the county was a part elected black representatives until 1896.<sup>82</sup> By 1870, the population of Beaufort County consisted of 29,050 African American freedmen (84.6 percent) and 5,309 whites (15.4 percent). Beaufort County had a strong majority of African Americans, and this situation continued through to the beginning of the twentieth century; by 1910 over 75 percent of Beaufort County's population consisted of African Americans.

The Civil War effectively destroyed the plantation system in South Carolina and the rest of the South. This meant profound changes for the county both economically and socially. The antebellum economic system disintegrated as a result of emancipation and the physical destruction of agricultural property through neglect and (to a lesser extent) military action. A constricted money supply coupled with huge debt made the readjustments worse. The changes were enormous. Land ownership was reshuffled, as outsiders began purchasing plots and plantations which had been abandoned in the wake of the Civil War. Former slaves often exercised their freedom by moving, making the labor situation even more unsettled.

A variety of labor systems evolved after the Civil War. Reconstruction was an era of experimentation and redefinition in the socio-economic relationships between the freed blacks, landless whites, and white landowners. Although many freedmen owned their own small farms, farm tenancy emerged as a dominant form of agricultural land management toward the end of the

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<sup>81</sup>See Gerhard Spieler, "Historic landmark still thriving church," *Beaufort Gazette*, 4 Feb. 1997, p. 10A.

<sup>82</sup>Eric Foner, *Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution 1863-1877* (New York: Harper & Row, 1988), 356-357; Walter Edgar, *South Carolina in the Modern Age* (Columbia: USC Press, 1992).



nineteenth century. Large tracts of Beaufort County were purchased by investors or regained by their former owners. Foot Point Plantation, on a point of land in a bend of the Colleton River, provides a useful example of this process. Henry Seabrook of Edisto Island and Thomas Colcock of Charleston purchased 525 acres of the property in 1864 on behalf of a larger group of investors, all based in Charleston and Columbia. This larger group, which included William Gregg, William Ravenel, James Eason, and William Whaley, was incorporated as the Foot Point Land Company in 1864. By 1868, however, the Company no longer existed and Eason owned the property. In the late 1860s, however, Eason's financial difficulties led him to mortgage the plantation, along with a number of other properties, to Charles Lowndes, a Charleston merchant. Eason then sold the property to Lowndes "to avoid the expenses of foreclosure" in 1879. Shortly after, it went into the hands of outside investors. A Bostonian, John Phillips, bought the plantation in 1882; he died in 1885, and his estate turned it over to two Connecticut investors who in turn sold it to the Macon and Atlantic Railway Company in 1891. When this company went bankrupt in the early 1890s, Foot Point along with several other plantations in along the Colleton River were sold to the Hunting Island Company; by the 1920s, Henry Cram, a Philadelphia capitalist, had acquired the land.<sup>83</sup>

While census statistics for Beaufort County in 1890 and 1900 indicate that the average farm size was approximately 45 acres, a figure deceptively close to the "40 acres and a mule" ideal held by the Freedmen's Bureau during Reconstruction, very little of the county outside of St. Helena Parish went to former slaves.<sup>84</sup> In fact, only a small portion even of the St. Helena property seized and sold by the US Government during and after the war made it to the hands of freedmen.<sup>85</sup> On Port Royal Island, three lots of 20 acres or less each on Salem Plantation were apparently sold to African Americans. These transactions did not occur until 1885 or after, and the property was quickly repurchased by whites.<sup>86</sup> Developers actively encouraged small farmers to immigrate to the, but their efforts were focused on whites.<sup>87</sup>

Census records for 1880 reveal a wide range in rates of farm ownership throughout Beaufort County. Table 1 shows the rates of farm ownership for the various census enumeration districts in the county. The impact of the various efforts to educate the freedmen on St. Helena, Lady's, and Port Royal Islands seems clear, both in the number of farmers and the high rate of farm ownership,

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<sup>83</sup>Tina M. Rust, Bruce G. Harvey, Todd McMakin, and Eric C. Poplin, *Archaeological Survey and Testing of the Cram Tract, Beaufort County, South Carolina*, Brockington and Associates, Inc., 1997, 26-28.

<sup>84</sup>U.S. Census, 1895, 1902.

<sup>85</sup>Rose, *Rehearsal for Reconstruction*, chapter 10.

<sup>86</sup>see, for example, Beaufort County Deed Book (BCDB) 18:133, 583, 589, 740, 766

<sup>87</sup>see, for example, Allen Maul, "Beautiful Beaufort: A Hidden Paradise," in *Beaufort County, South Carolina: A Proven District* (Beaufort, SC: Charleston and Western Carolina Railroad, n.d.).

Table 1: Beaufort County farm ownership, 1880		
Enumeration District	Number of farmers	Percent owners
Beaufort	886	59.5
Bluffton	443	19.4
Coosawhatchie	300	25.3
Hilton Head	182	1.6
Rose Island	1	100
Sheldon	665	24.5
St. Helena	939	77.2
Yemassee	160	76.3

particularly when compared to the rates of ownership in such districts as Sheldon, Coosawhatchie, and especially Hilton Head Island.<sup>88</sup> The farms on these islands tended to be very small, generally no more than ten acres. Clearly, however, farm ownership was an attainable goal on these islands. The concentration of lands, when the small farmers were either bought or foreclosed off their land, occurred later in the nineteenth century and early in the twentieth century.

Beginning with the Civil War and continuing throughout the 1860s, northern civilians poured into Beaufort District. Some were attached to the occupying Federal government; others were missionaries, teachers, or entrepreneurs. Many probably combined several roles. Among the best known are George Gage and George Waterhouse. Ohio-born civil engineer George Gage arrived in Beaufort in 1862 or 1863 to take up his appointment as “special agent in connection with work among the contrabands [former slaves].” During the 1860s several men, led by Gage, founded a “social club, as our population then was made up largely of men from all parts of the North and West.” In 1870 Gage was appointed by President Ulysses S. Grant as Beaufort’s Collector of Customs; by his death in 1904 Gage was among Beaufort’s respected old men and a member of St. Helena’s Episcopal Church.<sup>89</sup> George Waterhouse became one of Beaufort’s most successful businessmen. A native of Maine, he lived in Boston where he joined the Baptist Church at the age of 19; he was still a young man when he arrived in Beaufort between 1860 and 1870. He became a cotton factor and a general merchant, with warehouses and a store on Bay Street, and “grew up in the New South.” Waterhouse is buried at Beaufort’s Baptist Church.<sup>90</sup>

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<sup>88</sup>U.S. Census, Agricultural Schedule, Beaufort County, 1880.

<sup>89</sup>Obituary, George Gage, age 73, *Beaufort Gazette* (Beaufort, SC), June 1904.

<sup>90</sup>Obituary, George Waterhouse, age 56, *Beaufort Gazette* (Beaufort, SC), August 1894.

Other northerners who had settled in Beaufort before 1860 also remained in the county after the Civil War. George Holmes, born in New York, settled in Beaufort several years before the Civil War. According to his obituary, Holmes “came to Beaufort as a young man, and worked in the store of his brother-in-law John S. Fyler.” Holmes’ sister Elizabeth was Fyler’s wife. Holmes remained in Beaufort after the departure of the Fylers, serving as mayor in the late nineteenth century. He was a member and strong supporter of Beaufort’s Methodist Church.<sup>91</sup>

Northern influences were also tied to the emergence of the Town of Port Royal in the years after the Civil War. The town began with plans for the Port Royal Railroad Company, which was created to provide access to the Port Royal Harbor, one of the finest natural harbors on the east coast. The Railroad Company began planning and fund raising in 1869, with the intention of connecting Port Royal to Augusta, Georgia.<sup>92</sup> This plan was the descendant of plans earlier in the nineteenth century to use railroads as a way to siphon commerce from the hinterland of Georgia and Alabama traveling down the Savannah River; the first railroad in South Carolina in the 1830s sought to bring goods from Hamburg along the Savannah River directly to Charleston. The plan with the Port Royal Railroad was similar, using the Port Royal Harbor as the port of export.

The Town of Port Royal was chartered in 1874, the same year the Railroad began operation. By the 1880s the town contained nearly 400 inhabitants, with several churches, a school, and two boarding houses. A large railroad warehouse located twenty feet from the water contained a steam cotton press and a grain elevator. The town was designed to eclipse the antebellum town of Beaufort with new and modern shipping equipment.<sup>93</sup> Phosphate quickly became the principal feature of Port Royal’s activities. In the 1880s, for example, the Port Royal Fertilizing Company had “extensive works” in the town, while in the early twentieth century the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company and the Baldwin Fertilizer Company operated plants in Port Royal.<sup>94</sup>

The new town of Port Royal received an additional boost in 1889 when Congress authorized a coaling dock and naval storehouse at nearby Parris Island. The U.S. Navy had been at Port Royal harbor since seizing it in the Civil War, and the harbor had been a rendezvous point throughout the War and after. In the late 1870s two ships, the *New Hampshire* and the *Pawnee*, were stationed at Port Royal. The Navy built a wooden dry dock, which was then the largest dry

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<sup>91</sup>Most records spell Fyler; the *Beaufort Gazette* wrote Filer. Obituary Mrs. Libbie Filer, January 1904; obituary George Holmes, age 90, *Beaufort Gazette* (Beaufort, SC), June 1919.

<sup>92</sup>Spieler, “Port Royal,” 3.2.

<sup>93</sup>*Ibid.*, 4.1-3.

<sup>94</sup>*South Carolina: Resources and Population, Institutions and Industries* (Columbia, SC: State Board of Agriculture, 1883, 665 (quote); *South Carolina State Gazetteer and Business Directory. Period 1905-1910*, 475; *Handbook of South Carolina*, 398.

dock built by the Federal government, designed to hold large new warships. It was not large enough, however, and when in 1898 the Navy committed to replacing all of its wooden dry docks with stone or concrete, Port Royal's facility was in danger. In 1902, Congress authorized the removal of the Naval Station to Charleston, though the Navy retained possession of Parris Island, and created the Marine Corps recruit training station there in 1915.<sup>95</sup>

The look of the town of Beaufort also began to change in the late nineteenth century. The blending of commercial, domestic, and manufacturing functions in one building had continued well into the nineteenth century. Towns and cities before the Civil War rarely divided these functions; fashionable houses through the middle of the nineteenth century tended to be built as close to the commercial and political center of the town and cities as was possible. Beaufort throughout the nineteenth century had two foci: the public square on Carteret Street, and the waterfront below Bay Street. Following the lead of early nineteenth century northeastern cities, however, towns and cities throughout the nation after the Civil War began marking a clearer division between home and business. Families and the hard-edged business world were designed not to collide in Victorian America, as a protective measure for the family. This process was assisted by the development of forms of mass transportation, which allowed businessmen to commute from their homes to their offices. At the same time, increasing specialization in the commercial and manufacturing realms began to call for particular forms of building. Specialized commercial architecture developed during the late nineteenth and the early twentieth centuries, clearly located at the center of town and along major thoroughfares. A similar process of division and specialization in building types marked the appearance of buildings devoted specifically to manufacturing. Through the early nineteenth century, commerce and manufacturing was largely done at the same location. In the early and middle nineteenth century, however, the manufacturing component was gradually separated from the process of selling, first to distinct spaces within the same building, and then to separate buildings.<sup>96</sup>

Several industries characterized Beaufort County in the late nineteenth century, some of them rising and some in decline. All of these related to the changing nature of the work force and the changing labor situation, and to the new impact of the outside world, particularly the new market and transportation forces. The county's economy became increasingly diversified in the late nineteenth century, although agriculture continued its domination. The Civil War was the beginning of the end of large-scale agriculture in the Lowcountry, both of rice and sea island

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<sup>95</sup>Jim McNeil, *Charleston's Navy Yard: A Picture History* (Charleston, SC: Coker Craft Press, Inc., 1985), 38; Spieler, "Port Royal," chapter 6; Cole, *Historic Resources of the Lowcountry*, 62.

<sup>96</sup>Particularly useful sources for the developments mentioned in this paragraph include: Stuart M. Blumin, *The Emergence of the Middle Class: Social Experience in the American City, 1760-1900* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1989); Richard Bushman, *The Refinement of America: Persons, Houses, Cities* (New York: Random House, 1992); Howard N. Rabinowitz, "Continuity and Change: Southern Urban Development, 1860-1900," in Blaine A. Brownell and David R. Goldfield, eds., *The City in Southern History: The Growth of Urban Civilization in the South* (Port Washington, NY: 1977); Sam B. Warner, Jr., *Streetcar Suburbs: The Process of Growth in Boston 1870-1900* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1962); Sean Wilentz, *Chants Democratic: New York City & the Rise of the American Working Class, 1788-1850* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1984).

cotton. Other forms of agriculture and related industries emerged to take their place, and though none provided the kind of opulent lifestyles for a small elite that rice and cotton had before the War, they allowed for the development of a strong middle class.

### *Rice*

Rice relied on large amounts of controlled labor to be successful; in the years after the war, labor in the antebellum pattern was impossible to secure. Without the regular maintenance provided by forced labor, the elaborate networks of canals and dikes quickly deteriorated; the movement of troops during the War years hastened the physical destruction of the once-glorious rice fields. In the 1880s and 1890s, moreover, a series of vicious tropical storms and hurricanes destroyed the attempts to rebuild.<sup>97</sup> In the wake of the Civil War, few if any capitalists had the means to fund the restoration of these fields; what money there was could be more profitably diverted elsewhere. Some of the rice plantations continued to operate, and on a significant scale; in 1879, for example, nearly 13,000 acres of land in Beaufort County yielded over 10,500 pounds of rice.<sup>98</sup> A saltwater dam protecting rice fields on the Combahee River (site number 120 0285), built in the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries, gives testimony to the continued production of rice on the Combahee River. Nieuport Plantation, for example, operated by Langdon Cheves, was growing rice as late as 1913, while Theodore Ravenel was growing rice at Laurel Spring, across the river in Colleton County, as late as 1927.<sup>99</sup> The end, however, was near.

### *Sea Island Cotton*

Although sea island cotton was cultivated until the third decade of the twentieth century, it never approached its former status in price, crop yield, or quality. In the three years prior to the Civil War, Beaufort County produced 54,904 bales of the staple. A decade later (1870-1873) only 23,307 bales made it to market. By the end of the same decade, over 100,000 acres of formerly cultivated land lay fallow. Some of the decline was due to natural forces, such as the unfavorable weather in the years after the war. The altered labor force and lack of capital on the part of former owners who could no longer afford large scale operations also stymied production. Further, as Rose noted, "other land was in disuse because many northern investors had failed at cotton planting."<sup>100</sup> However, the cotton culture still persisted. The first wilt-free variety of sea island cotton was developed by US Department of Agriculture research on James Island in 1899. The hope produced by such advances was dashed with the arrival of the boll weevil in South Carolina in the early twentieth century. Farmers who were members of the Agricultural Society of South

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<sup>97</sup>Rowland, "Alone on the River," 147-150.

<sup>98</sup>"Rice Statistics for 1879," *Palmetto Post* (Beaufort, SC), 23 March 1879.

<sup>99</sup>Robert Cuthbert, "Combahee River Plantations," *South Carolina Historical Society Carologue*, Spring 1996.

<sup>100</sup>Rose, *Rehearsal for Reconstruction*, 381-382.

Carolina were warned of the arrival of the boll weevil in 1916. By 1919 the pest had spread throughout South Carolina, and it was particularly attracted to sea island cotton. Many planters had given up on the crop before the 1918 season.<sup>101</sup> The severe infestations of the pest eliminated cotton as a viable crop throughout the state.

### *Phosphate*

A number of other industries arose as Beaufort County residents searched for paths to prosperity. Phosphate mining provided a brief ray of hope in the 1880s and 1890s. Phosphate, used in the production of agricultural fertilizers, helped to fuel the renewed cotton economy of South Carolina in the Victorian era. Robert Mills had observed beds of phosphate rock in the 1820s, though he did not know what it was: "there is a species of rock found occasionally, of a very firm texture, resembling marble, which is evidently formed of shells. At Captain Hugennin's [sic] plantation, below Coosawhatchie, I have picked up small fragments of it, and understand it is found in large masses."<sup>102</sup> No commercial uses of the rock were discovered until the 1860s; when phosphate was first mined along the Ashley River near Charleston in 1867, the potential profits proved enticing. Well-capitalized companies, drawing upon the resources of northern investors, established mines and processing plants near Charleston, and helped spur interest in Beaufort County. The Coosaw River Mining Company, for example, based in Charleston, began mining operations along the Coosaw and Bull Rivers in Beaufort County in the early 1870s.<sup>103</sup> The area of phosphate mining in Beaufort County was focused on the Whale Branch, Coosaw, and Beaufort rivers.<sup>104</sup> Port Royal was the center of the fertilizer industry in Beaufort County.

The phosphate boom in South Carolina did not last long; strong competition from new phosphate beds in central Florida and Tennessee, limited capital, damaging storms, and a reluctant work force kept the industry from long-lasting success. The industry did not die out entirely, however, nor was it without impact on the landscape and economy of Beaufort County. Material evidence of the phosphate boom remains. Changes to the landscape are strikingly clear to travelers along Chisolm Island, where parallel ridges ten to twenty feet tall extend for a quarter of a mile and more (site 120 0293). In addition, W.E. McLeod acquired a large shed (site 470

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<sup>101</sup>Chalmers S. Murray, *This Our Land: The Story of the Agricultural Society of South Carolina* (Charleston, SC: Carolina Art Association, 1949), 193-197.

<sup>102</sup>Mills, *Statistics of South Carolina*, 377.

<sup>103</sup>Tom W. Shick and Don H. Doyle, "The South Carolina Phosphate Boom and the Stillbirth of the New South, 1867-1920," *South Carolina Historical Magazine* 86 (January 1985): 4-9.

<sup>104</sup>*Handbook of South Carolina: Resources, Institutions and Industries of the State* (Columbia, SC: The State Department of Agriculture, Commerce and Immigration, 1907), 125.

248.07), apparently built approximately 1870 for the Brotherhood Phosphate Mine on Battery Creek, and used it as a packing shed for his truck farming operation at Seabrook.<sup>105</sup>

### *Truck Farming*

Truck farming became an important part of Beaufort County's economy in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. This type of agriculture grew as the result of increased urban demand for fresh fruits and vegetables, and an expansion of the railroads and steamship lines that enabled rapid access to the market centers. Unlike many cotton farmers who were tied to the crop-lien or sharecropping system, truck farmers tended to be small, independent farmers who came from outside the county. The railroads fostered this type of farming in the coastal plain of South Carolina, and particularly in Georgia and Florida, where a warm climate allows a long growing season. Around the turn of the century, a promotional brochure on the Beaufort District, distributed by the Charleston & Western Carolina Railway, advertised 300 frost free days a year.<sup>106</sup> Railroad companies were eager to promote truck farming in the area, as it would greatly increase the traffic on their lines. The Seaboard Railroad, for example, moved into Beaufort County with the hopes of stimulating and profiting from truck farming in 1915. Lettuce was the principal crop, while cabbages, cucumbers, peas, and beans placed second, with radishes and string beans coming third in order of importance. Watermelons, cantaloupes, and Irish potatoes were among the other crops that could be grown on places like Daufuskie and Savage Island. Prominent physical facilities related to truck cropping were packing sheds and ice plants.<sup>107</sup>

Truck farming grew rapidly in Beaufort from the 1880s. Improvements to the waterways among the sea islands and better railroad facilities all gave the industry a boost. According to one report, "Nowhere in the State has such a marked advance in trucking been observed as in Beaufort County, which count had only 30 acres in 1890 and 934 acres in 1900." Growth continued into the twentieth century; total value of truck crops rose from \$121,000 in 1904 to \$237,000 in 1906.<sup>108</sup>

Beaufort County provided opportunities to several individuals. William Hardee McLeod, a Virginia native who went first to Georgia before arriving in Beaufort County, began acquiring land east of the Port Royal and Augusta Railroad near a branch of the Whale Branch River in 1884. With his son Claudius, W.H. McLeod acquired more land during the late nineteenth and

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<sup>105</sup>Claude McLeod, interview with author, 3/97; Natalie Harvey, "National Register of Historic Places, Registration Form, McLeod Farmstead, Seabrook, South Carolina."

<sup>106</sup>Maul, "Beautiful Beaufort."

<sup>107</sup>Charles Reagan Wilson and William Ferris, *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1989), 49-50; see also Francis Butler Simkins and Charles Pierce Roland, *History of the South* (New York, Alfred A. Knopf), 340.

<sup>108</sup>*Handbook of South Carolina* 290, 301.

early twentieth centuries, and expanded his truck farming operations. In 1921, McLeod bought the Keyserling property directly across the railroad tracks to the west, and expanded out to Seabrook Point.<sup>109</sup> The Keyserlings had arrived in Beaufort County in 1888 from Lithuania by way of New York City. He first worked in a store and mercantile business; when the cotton and phosphate industries declined rapidly in the 1890s he purchased farm land in the Dale and Coosaw areas and began growing heavy crops such as potatoes and cabbages. Across the Whale Branch River from Seabrook, the Long-Bellamy Company operated another major truck farm operation in the early twentieth century.<sup>110</sup>

Truck farming also provided work to locals. The work of preparing, planting, and some of the harvesting was normally handled by local black residents, while the seasonal loads required even more workers. By the 1920s and 1930s migrant workers, often from Florida, were called upon to harvest the tomato crops, and the packing shed provided seasonal work to local blacks. The McLeods, indeed, had a separate house to accommodate migrant families.<sup>111</sup>

### *Timber Industries*

The vast pine forests in the low country provided other economic opportunities. Timber had constituted an important industry in the southern coastal regions since the earliest settlements in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Colonial timber and naval stores (pitch, tar, resin) production was centered in the Carolinas, especially North Carolina. By the 1880s and 1890s the timber industry had moved south into South Carolina and Georgia, and large timber companies began buying up the former agricultural lands and exploiting the timber and turpentine. One Beaufort County plantation owner acknowledged in a letter to her son in 1889 that "I have had many offers from turpentine men for my trees—but your Father always advised me not to have my trees used for that purpose danger of fire etc. etc. & I thought I would not get much of the money." It must have been a temptation, however, as she also acknowledged in regard to the land, "No crop has it yielded since 1860."<sup>112</sup> The yield of timber from southern forests doubled between 1880 and 1890, and in the first three decades of the twentieth century the South's share of the nation's timber production rose from under one-third to nearly one-

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<sup>109</sup>Harvey, "McLeod Farmstead."

<sup>110</sup>*South Carolina: The WPA Guide to the Palmetto State* (NY: Oxford University Press, 1941. Reprint, with introduction by Walter B. Edgar, Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1988), 322.

<sup>111</sup>Herbert Keyserling, personal communication, 2/20/98; Claude McLeod, personal communication, 2/20/98.

<sup>112</sup>Mrs. Hartstene to Henry, 17 January 1889, in Burn Family Papers, Mss on file at the South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina; see also James R. Hill, Elsie I. Eubanks, and Eric C. Poplin, *A Cultural Resources Overview of the Palmetto Bluff Tract, Beaufort County, South Carolina*, Brockington and Associates, Inc., 1994.



half.<sup>113</sup> Many of the lumber companies which operated in Beaufort, Jasper, and Hampton Counties remained in business in the area for only a few decades before either going bankrupt or moving on. Several timber companies were successful in purchasing extensive tracts in Beaufort County in the late nineteenth century, including Estill and Varn along the May River on Palmetto Bluff.

Timber, phosphates, truck crops, and cotton formed the basis of Beaufort County's economy in the late nineteenth century. They also spurred the creation of a network of railroads of various sizes throughout Beaufort County in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, which in turn played an important part both in building up these industries in northern Beaufort County and in creating small towns and villages. The main line was the Port Royal Railroad, which extended from Yemassee, where it branched off from the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, south to Port Royal, after passing through Sheldon, Seabrook, and Grays Hill.<sup>114</sup> By 1910, this line was a part of the Charleston and Western Carolina Railroad.<sup>115</sup> The community of Lobeco, a shortened version of the Long-Bellamy Company, served as the processing area for that company. The Keyserling family, meanwhile, named their community and railroad stop Dale after the family that Isaac Keyserling, the first immigrant, had worked for, while Seabrook served as the community for the McLeod family farm and Grays Hill was the center of the Grays family operation. Several of these communities, including Yemassee, Sheldon, Seabrook, Grays Hill, and Burton had stops along the Charleston and Western Carolina Railroad, which then continued on into Beaufort and Port Royal.

The more recent Seaboard Air Line included a stop at Lobeco, while Dale had a spur to the Air Line.<sup>116</sup> Construction of the 85-mile Charleston to Savannah route of the Seaboard Air Line was begun in the fall of 1915. This line ran south of the Atlantic Coast Line's Charleston-to-Savannah route, and was 30 miles shorter between the two cities. Its bridge across Wimbee Creek remains (site number 120 0163).<sup>117</sup> This opened new shipping opportunities for Beaufort County vegetable farmers. This was the only main line in Beaufort County, and helped to build up the county.

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<sup>113</sup>Francis Butler Simkins and Charles Pierce Roland, *A History of the South* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1972), 467.

<sup>114</sup>see E.M. Stoeber, *Beaufort County....Geological & Agricultural Map* (Columbia, SC, 1873); *Rand-McNally New Commercial Atlas Map of South Carolina* (1914).

<sup>115</sup>*The Rand-McNally...Pocket Map and Shippers' Guide of South Carolina* (Chicago, IL: Rand McNally & Company, [1914]).

<sup>116</sup>Herbert Keyserling, personal communication, 2/20/98; Claude McLeod, personal communication, 2/20/98; Thomas Fетters, *Logging Railroads of South Carolina* (Forest Park, IL: Heimburger House Publishing Company, 1990), 161.

<sup>117</sup>*News & Courier*, 1/1/16.

Smaller lines ran off this main road, and serviced truck farming, timber, and phosphate operations. While the tracks and rails on these smaller lines have rarely survived, many railroad beds remain throughout the central part of the county in particular. Perhaps the largest extended eastward from what is now Jasper County, across Hall Island, past Coosaw Station, crossed Huspa Creek, and continued through the Dale and Lobeco areas to Chisolm's Point. Much of this railroad remains, all along the line.

Gazetteers and business directories indicate a wide range of other businesses in Beaufort County. Cotton gins, saw mills, and grist mills were spread throughout the county, often forming the nucleus of small communities in the northern part of the county. All of these drew upon improvements in transportation, including shipping, highways, and railroads. The intricate network of creeks, rivers, and marshes made logging railroads nearly impossible; instead, the waterways themselves provided the principal transportation for timber and phosphates.<sup>118</sup>

The military reentered Beaufort County in the late nineteenth century, more peacefully than in the Civil War. The US Government established a coaling dock and naval storehouse on Port Royal Island in 1882. During the Spanish American War of 1898-99, the Army built Fort Fremont (site 389 0021) along the Port Royal River where it meets Broad River. This is a vast concrete fort with three large gun emplacements facing the water. It was never used in defense, however, and never fired a shot.<sup>119</sup>

### ***Twentieth Century Changes***

Three principal factors have come to dominate Beaufort County in the twentieth century: the military, renewed plantations, and travel and tourism. All of these factors drew upon revolutions in construction technology, including air conditioning, safe water, and inexpensive durable building materials, and had a dramatic impact on the county's built environment. The military, particularly in the years during and after World War II (WWII), brought in vast numbers of people; many were in the county only temporarily for training, but many others were permanent residents, and required new housing tracts in the immediate area. The renewed plantations brought wealthy men and women often from other states who built large new residential and agricultural complexes; many of these were sold later in the twentieth century and opened the southern part of the county for development. Beaufort's growing reputation as a tourist destination, finally, has put increased pressure on the preservation of historic buildings, and has helped to focus interest on the City of Beaufort's remarkable stock of eighteenth and nineteenth century buildings in particular.

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<sup>118</sup>Fetters, *Logging Railroads of South Carolina*, 160-161.

<sup>119</sup>Cole, *Historic Resources of the Lowcountry*, 65.

The United States government became the major employer and economic force in the Beaufort vicinity during World War II, with the establishment of the Parris Island Marine Corps Recruiting Depot and the Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS). The MCAS was created in 1942-1943 through joint action between Beaufort County and the Civil Aeronautics Authority. The Commander of the Navy authorized it as a Naval Air Station. It served as an important air training facility throughout World War II, but was declared a surplus facility in 1945. During the 1950s, the facility was revived by the Marine Corps, a distinct service within the Department of the Navy.<sup>120</sup>

Otherwise, the predominantly black population of St. Helena Parish remained isolated, eking a subsistence from their small farms and gardens, hunting, and fishing in the area's vast woodlands and wetlands until large scale land development began on the islands in the 1960s. However, the twentieth century has seen vast changes in the agriculture of the Lowcountry. Several factors precipitated the changes, including the rapid drop in cotton profitability, the increased temptation of cash labor opportunities in other areas of the state, soil depletion, and the increased profitability of land sales to outside investors. Peter Coclanis has argued that the devastation of the Lowcountry's economy since the demise of the rice industry in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was due to the very forces that propelled its economy in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The centuries-long dependence on staple crop industry using slave labor, he argues, left residents in the Lowcountry without the economic infrastructure to develop new and more complex industries. Instead, new capital in the area was invested in extractive industries such as timber products and phosphates, along with military installations and tourism.<sup>121</sup>

These economic and social developments were represented by wealthy northern men who invested in both recreational and agricultural lands in Beaufort and other Lowcountry counties. Outside businessmen led a second northern invasion of sorts as they acquired vast amounts of land in the South in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It was a different type of movement from the early lumber purchases in the late nineteenth century. Northern capitalists and industrialists arrived in Beaufort County in the early twentieth century seeking leisure and recreation in a landscape untouched by industrialization, not to build factories.

These northern sportsmen were drawn by the ideal of the Old South, with landed gentry presiding over vast plantations. This same image also helped to spark the rise of tourism to the South in the late nineteenth century. Those who owned land served as a beacon to others who wanted to be with them, or to sample the pleasures that Beaufort County afforded. A 1927 promotional pamphlet made the connection clear:

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<sup>120</sup>*The Cold War in South Carolina, 1945-1991. An Inventory of Department of Defense Cold War Era Cultural and Historical Resources in the State of South Carolina. Second Interim Report.* The USC Legacy Project, Department of History, University of South Carolina. Prepared for the Legacy Resource Management Program, United States Department of Defense, 87-88, 109-110.

<sup>121</sup>Coclanis, *Shadow of a Dream*, 154-156.

The appeal of Beaufort is yearly drawing many hundreds of wealthy northerners who, though exacting in their wants, get great delight in what they find here. And while in this appeal such fundamentals are in their minds as winter homes, recreational advantages, manly sports, natural beauty, climate, and historic background, yet there is something else of an attractive force present with some of them. The fact is that some of them buy thousands of acres of land, fence it, and put in keepers, and then turn it practically into sanctuaries where wild life of the land and water is reproduced in large amounts and whose lives are perpetuated and whose forests in which never an axe is laid, are treated in the same way. It is a beautiful kind of ownership.<sup>122</sup>

The growing popularity of automobiles in the early twentieth century spawned hordes of new travelers, many of whom wanted to use this modern invention for nothing more than experiencing historical and “quaint” places. New businesses emerged in Charleston and Myrtle Beach in the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s to capture these tourists. Beaufort acted less quickly and aggressively to capture this tourist trade, but it has become more important in recent decades.

Not all commercial buildings in Beaufort County were stores, of course. As travel and tourism became more important to the county's economy, new industries emerged to serve this trade. In particular, the new “Coastal Highway,” what is now US 17, promised a significant boost to the county's economy in the early and mid twentieth century. Articles in the *Beaufort Gazette* heralded the new road and encouraged local support. A 1925 article in particular captured the excitement of the project:

If you have any vision as to what a miracle 300,000 automobiles moving through our coast country will bring to our very doors, get behind the construction of your joint of the road. Few of us have yet dreamed of what the hard road and the automobiles will bring to us....The cars have been bought—the filling stations dot the wayside—hotels and farm houses will feed and shelter the tourists. If you live along this highway, it is one of the opportunities of your life to awaken your neighbors as to the God-given natural advantages possible to your community, your town and your State.<sup>123</sup>

Other issues and developments besides tourism, military, and plantations resulted in architectural resources. Churches continued to be built into the twentieth century. Presbyterians had become more active in Beaufort as the nineteenth century wore on, for example, and created a formal congregation in 1912. After holding meetings in various houses for several years, the congregation built its church by March 1929 (site number 025 1152).<sup>124</sup>

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<sup>122</sup>N.L. Willett, "Game Preserves and Game of Beaufort, Colleton, and Jasper Counties South Carolina: Hunters' Paradise Manly Sports," pamphlet, 1927 p. 17.

<sup>123</sup>Wade Stackhouse, "Development of the South Carolina Coast Country," *Beaufort Gazette*, 23 July, 1925.

<sup>124</sup>Patrick, "History of the Presbyterian Church in Beaufort," 6.

Catholics likewise remained little active during the late nineteenth century. By the early twentieth century, there was a growing presence of Roman Catholics in the county, though with only St. Peter's Church in the town of Beaufort to provide instruction. Members of the Pinckney family were Catholics, however, and had settled near Guerard's Point, at what is now known as Pinckney Colony. In 1929, W.E. Pinckney offered the use of his plantation home during the summers for use as a summer camp. This would allow Catholic children to receive instructions for confirmation, during the summer months. In 1931 the Diocese of Charleston took over the direction and funding of the camp, and in 1935 bought the Wiggins tract on the north side of the Okatie River, directly across from the Pinckney plantation. Father Kavler designed, planned, and built two barracks, a kitchen, and a mess hall; this collection of buildings remains intact, and formed the basis of Camp St. Mary's (site number 251 0362).<sup>125</sup>

The Pinckney Colony area was the site for another, more unusual experiment. John Hamlet, a naturalist and scientist working for the US Fish and Wildlife Service, was on loan to the National Foundation of Infantile Paralysis in the 1940s. After working with primates in the Philippines, Hamlet was charged with the task of establishing a Primate Center in the United States, to provide monkeys to researchers seeking a polio vaccine. He selected a remote tract in the Pinckney Colony area. Hamlet oversaw the construction of a significant compound capable of handling a laboratory and up to 5,000 monkeys at a time. Most of the "Monkey Farm" buildings remain, including several barns and outbuildings, the laboratory, and a small handful of cages.<sup>126</sup>

The late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was a time of both strides and setbacks for southern blacks. According to one historian of African American history, the 1880s and 1890s represented the "nadir" of race relations in American history. The political gains that blacks had made in the immediate post-war years began to erode as the century neared its end, as northern Republicans began to lose interest in continuing their efforts to bolster black political activity. Southern state governments began revising their state constitutions in such a way as to allow for the systematic elimination of blacks from political participation.<sup>127</sup>

Despite the severe, and increasing, political, economic, and social restrictions during the late nineteenth century, African Americans did have educational opportunities. Independent schools and colleges such as the Hampton Normal Institute in Virginia and church-sponsored schools such as Fisk University in Nashville, both of which were created in the years after the Civil War, provided models for black schools throughout the South. In Beaufort County, the Penn School (site number 182 0038) began a new life at the beginning of the century. Laura Towne and Ellen Murray had continued to operate their school at the Brick Church site near

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<sup>125</sup>Mss. on file at Archives of the Diocese of South Carolina, Charleston, SC.

<sup>126</sup>John N. Hamlet, *Land That I Love* (Tabor City, NC: Atlantic Publishing Company, 1980), 175-179.

<sup>127</sup>See Rayford W. Logan, *The Negro in American Life and Thought: The Nadir 1877-1901* (NY: The Dial Press, 1954); J. Morgan Kousser, *The Shaping of Southern Politics: Suffrage Restriction and the Establishment of the One-Party South, 1880-1910* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1974).

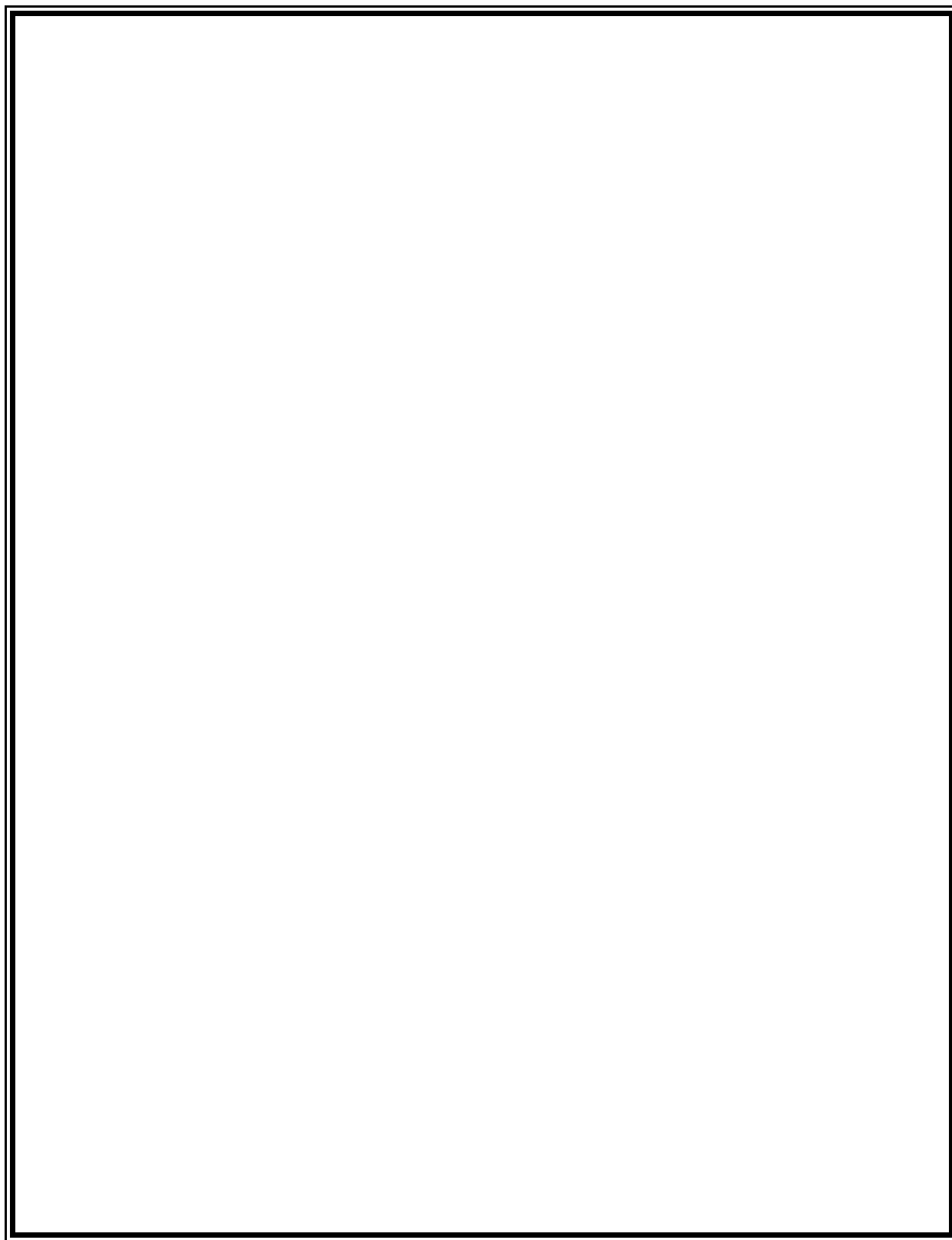


Figure 5. Cope Building, Penn Center, St. Helena Island, c. 1905. Site number 182 0038.05.

Frogmore on St. Helena Island. In 1901, near the end of their lives, they incorporated the school as a way to make it more permanent. They turned to the Hampton Institute as a model for industrial education for blacks. Hollis Burke Frissell, principal of the Hampton Institute, served as the first chairman of the board of trustees of the new Penn School. Other trustees were from the North, many of them philanthropists, including George Peabody, concerned for the education of southern blacks. As Penn School shifted from its post-Civil War focus on academic and teacher-training education to agricultural and industrial education, in line with the Hampton model, the new money and the new focus which motivated its leaders stimulated the creation of a new campus, with buildings in the Colonial and Spanish Mission styles (Figure 5). The school maintained its activities amid difficult conditions, and gained a national and international reputation for the education of African Americans. In 1948 the trustees agreed to turn over its educational function to the South Carolina public schools, and turned its attention to community services.<sup>128</sup>

In addition, the late nineteenth and early twentieth century saw the creation of greater numbers of African American churches. These churches were also becoming increasingly important as social and political centers. In Beaufort, for example, the Berean Presbyterian Church (site number 025 0900) was built c. 1900, while Port Royal saw the creation of Porter's Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church (site number 025 0578) in c. 1925.

As in the late nineteenth century, a range of small industries boosted the economy and shaped patterns of life and building in the county in the early twentieth century. In particular, fishing and related industries came to increasing prominence. The Maggioni family played a central role in the development of the shellfish industry in Beaufort County. The family created its first oyster packing house in the 1880s, located on Factory Creek on Ladies Island, directly across from the town of Beaufort. The family later established a number of other sites, including one at the former Brotherhood Phosphate Mines location in Port Royal, and another on St. Helena Island; the remains of the docks on Club Bridge Creek on St. Helena Island remain (site number 445 0337). Parts of the Coastal Seafood processing and steaming plant likewise remain on Eddings Point on St. Helena Island (site number 182 0465). The processing of crabs also emerged as an important industry in Beaufort during the early twentieth century.

The impetus for widespread new housing developments in Beaufort came with the emergence of the Cold War. The Marine Corps Air Station north of the city served as an active training facility during World War II. The Navy declared the Beaufort air station surplus in 1945. It was disestablished in April 1946, and the Navy transferred temporary possession of the station of Beaufort County in December 1946. The county purchased part of the base from the War Assets Administration in January 1948; the airport was then deeded to the county at no cost in June 1948. The deed came with a recapture clause, however, which allowed the federal government to retake the base in the case of a national emergency.

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<sup>128</sup>Wallace et al., *Guide to the...Penn School Papers*, 8-10.

The Korean conflict provided the setting for the air station to become part of the new Department of Defense (DoD), created in 1947. In June 1951 the DoD announced that it would spend \$87 million to upgrade military facilities in South Carolina, and included the Beaufort Air Station on the list of bases.<sup>129</sup> This resulted in a significant upgrade of the facility with a large number of buildings to house the new troops. The swelling numbers of personnel at the base created a market for new housing in the area, including the large new subdivision at Laurel Bay. Beaufort County's post-war building boom, therefore, was in the 1950s.

The US Army, through its Corps of Engineers, also had more peaceable impacts on the county in the twentieth century. The Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIW) has played an important part in transportation and recreation in the county. The AIW is a continuous inland waterway along the east coast of the United States. It is best known as a program of President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal during the Depression of the 1930s, because it was designated and completed under his administration. The AIW was placed under the Corps of Engineers; labor for its final construction was supplied through various New Deal agencies, including the Public Works Administration, the Works Progress Administration, and the Civilian Conservation Corps. Most of the inland waterway, following both natural waterways and artificial cuts, had been completed earlier, from the first colonial-era canals, through some of the improvements endorsed by Robert Mills in the early nineteenth century, and into the 1880s when Federal money was brought to bear. By 1913 there was a continuous channel of at least six feet at low tide from the Cape Fear River in North Carolina to the St. John's River in Florida. Sections between Charleston and Savannah, where channels were obstructed by narrow, crooked passages and shallow reaches, especially at points where tides meet, had been straightened by artificial cuts and deepened by dredging in a series of local projects.<sup>130</sup>

The AIW, when completed in the twentieth century, provided sufficient depth all along the project, and eliminated the final areas where open-water passage was required. The 235-mile South Carolina portion was completed between 1932 and 1940, with most of the work taking place above Georgetown. The final cut, a canal in Horry County, was opened to boat traffic in 1935. By 1940 all sections of Waterway in South Carolina were completed to its present depth, at least twelve feet at mean low tide.<sup>131</sup>

From the north, the AIW reaches Beaufort County through St. Helena Sound. It proceeds along the Coosaw River to a cut into Brickyard Creek, which leads into the upper Beaufort River. The AIW follows the Beaufort River to Port Royal Sound, then goes behind Hilton Head Island via Skull Creek and Calibogue Sound, then runs along Daufuskie Island through the Cooper River

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<sup>129</sup>*The Cold War in South Carolina*

<sup>130</sup>Jamie W. Moore, *The Lowcountry Engineers: Military Missions and Economic Development in the Charleston District* (Charleston: US Army Corps of Engineers, 1981), 61.

<sup>131</sup>*Phase One Report: Comprehensive Survey of Maintenance Problems of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, US Army Corps of Engineers District, Charleston* (Charleston, SC: US Army Corps of Engineers, 1976).



and Ramshorn Creek to the New River, which forms the boundary with Jasper County. Most of the AIW's length in Beaufort County is along natural waterways, although some of them were deepened. One artificial cut is at Brickyard Creek, connecting the Beaufort and Coosaw rivers. This cut was first authorized as a seven-foot channel, which was completed to a width of 150 feet in 1892, realigned and widened in 1892-1893. It was widened again in 1905.<sup>132</sup>

Not all of the work of the Corps of Engineers was focused on the inland waterway. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries Federal funding for work by the Corps responded to existing needs, supporting active waterway uses rather than providing a stimulus for new activity. The absence of industry in the county, and the limited demand for shipping access from the state's inland industries, meant little spending for harbor improvements. In 1903 a local request that the Corps dredge the Port Royal bar was turned down; commerce in the area was declining, and Port Royal already had one of the best natural entrances on the South Atlantic coast.<sup>133</sup> By 1943, proposals to dredge a deep-draft channel from the ocean twenty-one miles to Port Royal met a more favorable reaction; the population was increasing, truck farmers and seafood processors had been calling for harbor improvements, better rail connections to Beaufort had been established, and the Federal government had "become a prime investor in the area," particularly with the establishment of the Parris Island Marine Corps training center at the old Port Royal Naval Station. The improvements, which were not made specifically for the AIW but for later shipping needs, provided a channel 27 feet deep and 500 feet wide across the ocean bar, twenty-four feet deep and 300 feet wide in the Beaufort River and Battery Creek.<sup>134</sup>

The town of Beaufort has seen dramatic changes throughout the twentieth century. The early twentieth century saw considerable redevelopment along the lower (southern) portion of Carteret Street and the east end of Bay Street. A fire in 1907 resulted in the loss of many buildings in this area of the town, including two large tabby houses. One was located at the southeast corner of Carteret and Bay Streets, which had belonged to the Fuller family before 1862. The other tabby house lost to the fire was the next house on Bay Street, which had once been the residence of Stephen Elliott. This house was replaced by the William Joseph Thomas House (site number 025 0871) at 607 Bay Street in 1909, an early and important neo-classical building constructed in reinforced concrete and concrete block.

The early twentieth century also saw large planned additions to the town. The Pigeon Point area north of Boundary Street became a focus for new development and was incorporated into the town in the early 1910s. Plats drawn in the 1920s by the Christensen Realty Company show this area's northern peninsula (then called Beaufort Shores) subdivided into lots with the exception of two spaces: a small park which occupied the point itself, and an area designated

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<sup>132</sup>Ibid., 16, 19.

<sup>133</sup>Moore, *Lowcountry Engineers*, 72.

<sup>134</sup>Ibid., 72-73.

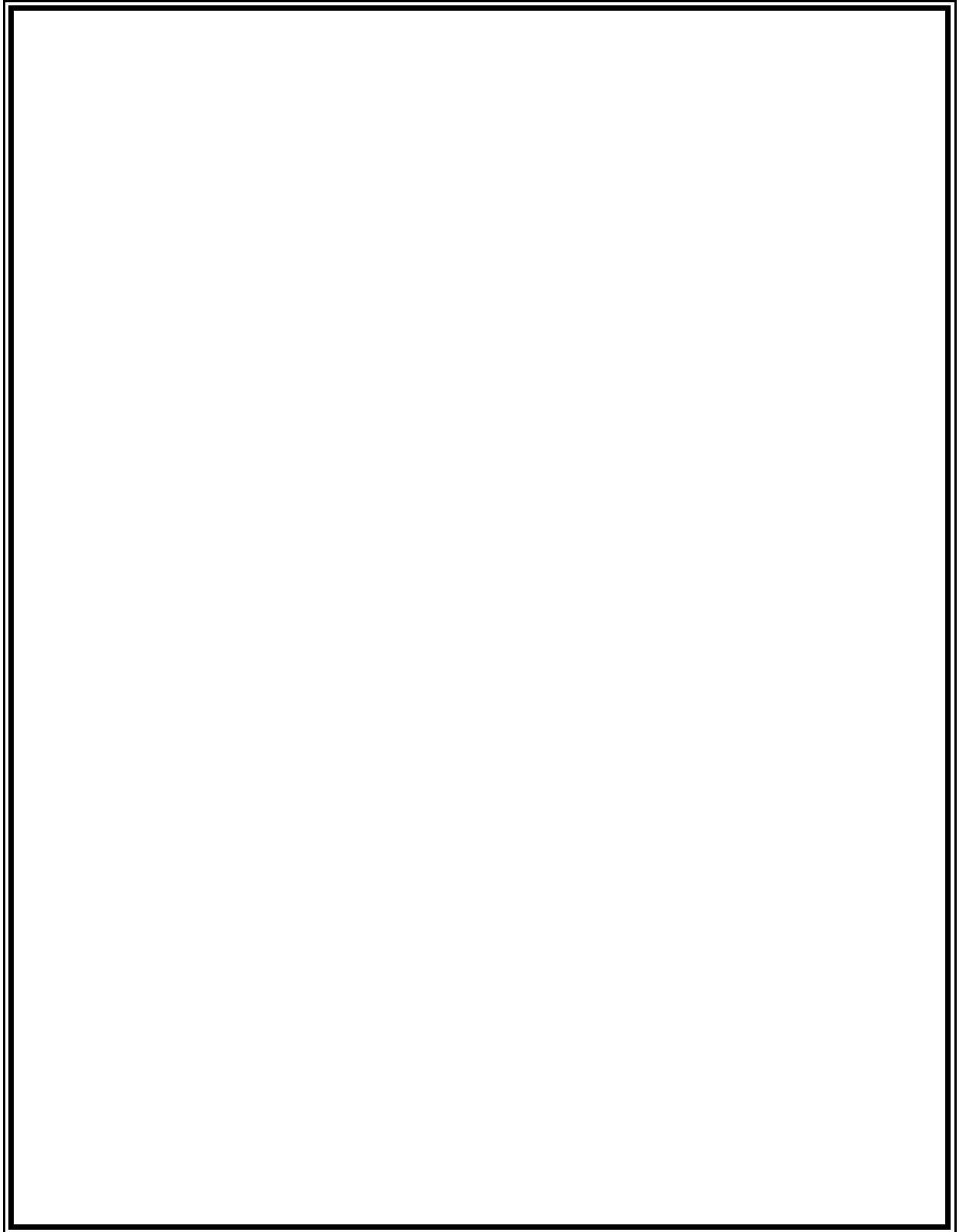


Figure 6. Plat of Beaufort Shores Development (Pigeon Point), 1946.

“Hotel and Commercial” just to the south of the point (Figure 6).<sup>135</sup> New plats for this area were registered in 1946 and 1947, but neither the proposed hotel nor any other commercial investment materialized.<sup>136</sup> The riverside lots remained the same size as they had been shown during the 1920s, but the interior lots were enlarged in an effort to attract buyers. To the west of Beaufort Shores some areas remained under agriculture until the early 1950s, with the exception of the area between Boundary and Calhoun Streets, which was platted by 1913, and a large area between Park, Lovejoy, Sycamore, and Lafayette Streets, which was platted as early as 1929.<sup>137</sup>

Like the land to the north, the areas to the south and southwest of the town began to see changes in the early twentieth century, although farming and light industry continued in the area until the 1950s and 1960s. Following the death of George Waterhouse, his waterfront property, which extended along the western end of Bay Street and what is now part of Ribault Road, was the subject of a scheme designated by P.J. Berkman's Company, Landscape Architects of Augusta, Georgia. In 1915 Berkman's proposed dividing the land into a string of more or less rectangular lots open on one side to the Beaufort River.<sup>138</sup> Immediately north of this land, 69 acres of what was labeled as “Crofut” land in 1918, had by 1925 become a focus for the Beaufort Development Company in their proposal to extend North and Prince Streets westward beyond Ribault Road into lands then known as Sams Farm (formerly Hermitage Plantation) (Figure 7).<sup>139</sup> The surveyor, Arthur O. Christensen, laid out 21 new blocks on a conventional grid plan. Remarkably given the development's irregular shape, almost all lots were to have a road frontage of 40 feet. This arrangement was not reconsidered until 1938, when a revised layout showed more variation in the dimensions of individual parcels.<sup>140</sup>

A far more ambitious scheme was “Hundred Pines,” which the Waterhouse Corporation registered in 1938.<sup>141</sup> Extending between Ribault Road and Battery Creek, this development was to emerge around two so-called “parkways,” one named Hermitage Road after the antebellum plantation “Fuller's Hermitage” which formerly occupied the site. The other was named Fuller Parkway after the site's pre-Civil War owners. Today, Hermitage Road, with its wide tree-planted median, and Fuller Parkway do indeed evoke, albeit on a small scale, the garden city ideals of the 1920s and 1930s, although the low-density single-family housing found scattered through the development is “colonial” in character (Figure 8). Elsewhere, few subdivisions made concessions

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<sup>135</sup>Beaufort County Plat Book 3:19.

<sup>136</sup>Ibid, 6:61, 6:67.

<sup>137</sup>Ibid., 3:44.

<sup>138</sup>Ibid., 2:27.

<sup>139</sup>Ibid, 2:37.

<sup>140</sup>Ibid., 4:46.

<sup>141</sup>Ibid., 14:39.

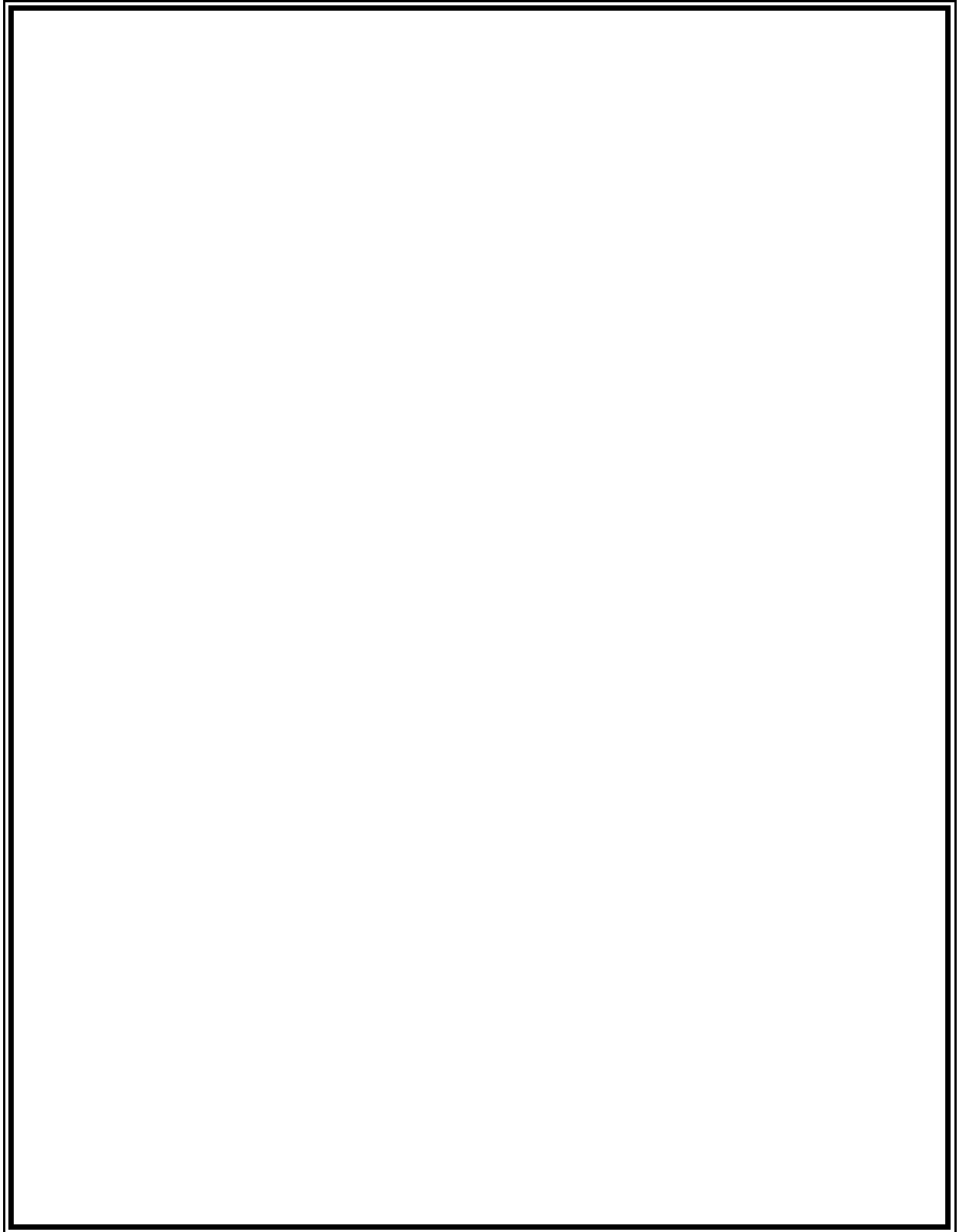


Figure 7. Plat of Beaufort Development Company, Beaufort, 1925.

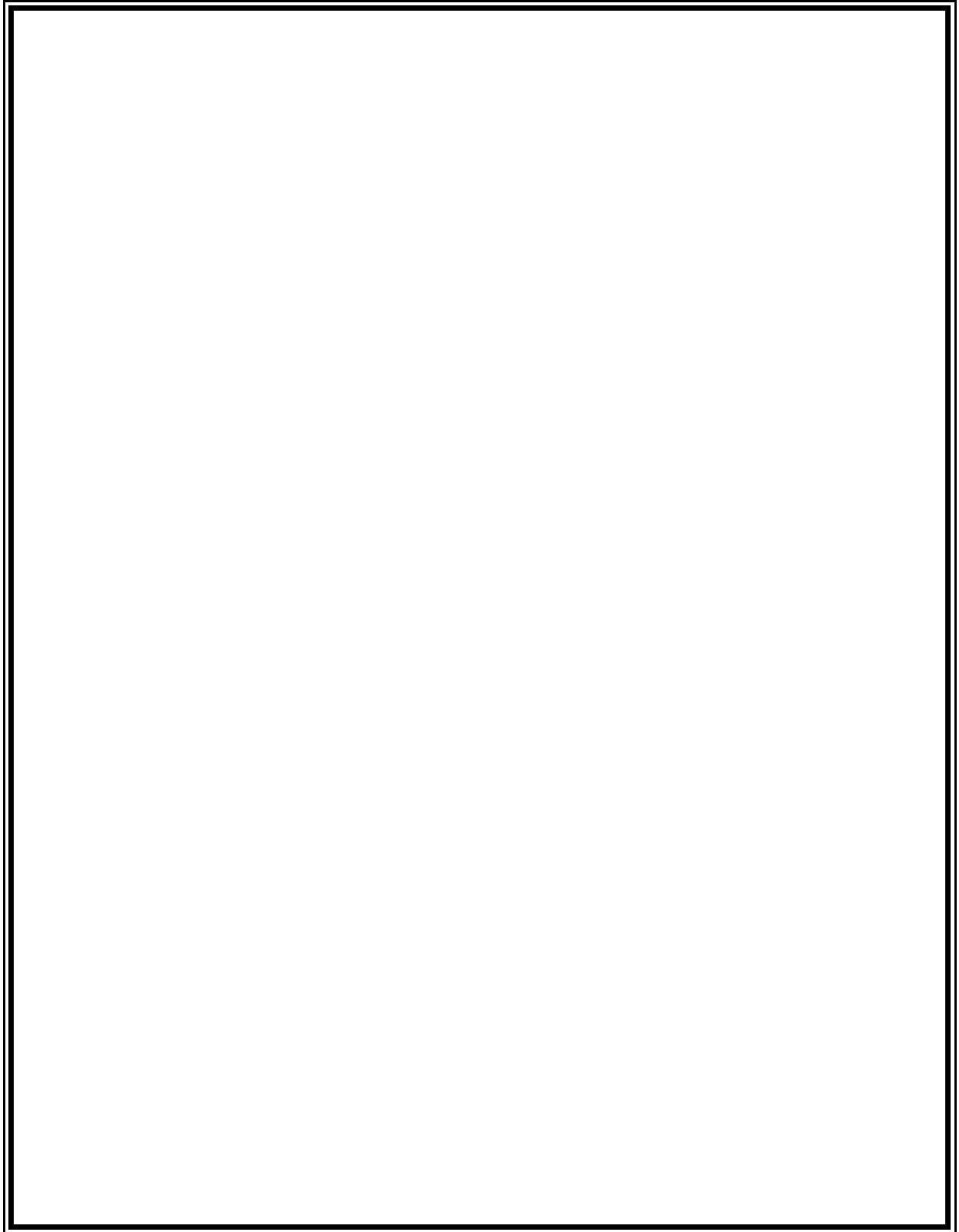


Figure 8. Plat of Hundred Pines Development, Beaufort, 1938.

to any planning ideal beyond maximum site exploitation. Woodlawn subdivision was a typical product of the 1940s with its small lots, rectilinear road system, and standardized house plans.<sup>142</sup>

Similar development of former Sams property located west of Beaufort continued through the 1940s and into the 1950s. An area bounded south by North Street, north by Oaklawn Avenue, east by Water Street, and west by Tidal Street, was platted in 1943; an adjacent tract was subdivided in 1952. The late 1940s also saw an expansion south toward Port Royal, though it was intermittent. The land now bounded by Reynolds, Joyner, Capers, and Elliot Streets, for example, was platted in 1948 with revisions registered in 1949.<sup>143</sup>

Since the middle of the century, Beaufort County's economy has headed in various new directions. After World War II, hunting and resort plantations such as Clarendon, Moorfield, and Belfair, came to be used for income producing ventures, particularly cattle. In addition, recreation and new housing have become important economic factors in Beaufort County. The county has emerged as a leading site for retirement and resort communities, and new housing developments have emerged rapidly. The sea islands of Hilton Head, Fripp, Harbor, Dataw, Callawassie and Spring Islands, and Daufuskie have been developed extensively for private residence and golf courses. The implications of this new and rapid growth in housing in the past several decades are vast, and it will affect a host of aspects of Beaufort County's quality of life, including historic preservation. Plantation owners of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries had a habit of creating their building complexes on sites that were and continue to be highly desirable, with marvelous marsh views, cooled by sea breezes. This situation has focused the attention of development on those places that are particularly sensitive for their historical significance, and that merit special attention. The remaining chapters of this report address these concerns.

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<sup>142</sup>Ibid, 6:21.

<sup>143</sup>Ibid., 8:8.

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## **Chapter III: Architectural Analysis**

### ***Introduction***

Beaufort County is particularly rich in historic architecture. While periods of human occupation from the earliest prehistory to recent times are represented with material evidence, only the eras beginning with the early eighteenth century are represented by above-ground structures. Archaeological remains from the time before European contact are plentiful, as the reports generated from Beaufort County studies attest. The late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, when French and Spanish troops and missionaries established bases in Beaufort County, are much less represented with archaeological evidence, though recent studies of the settlement of Charlesfort on Parris Island have given valuable insights into that period.

Beaufort County's extant above-ground historic resources include grand eighteenth and nineteenth century mansions, tenant houses from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in the County's agricultural areas, military fortifications from the Civil War and Spanish American War, small houses built by yeoman, both black and white, plantation houses and barns from the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, truck farming complexes, bridges, docks, railroad beds, factories, churches, cemeteries, and post-World War II housing tracts. These varied resources reveal patterns of life and work in Beaufort County. The historical overview in Chapter II demonstrates that agriculture and commerce in different forms have dominated the County since the early eighteenth century, while tourism and the military have increased sharply in importance during the middle and late twentieth century. Buildings like plantation houses, barns, churches, and townhouses associated with plantation families remain to indicate a way of life in the antebellum Lowcountry that has been relatively well documented. Sadly, the architectural remains of the other, equally influential forces that filled out the antebellum Beaufort historical picture such as yeoman farmers and laborers have rarely survived. Architectural resources from small farmers and blacks remain only from the later nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Meanwhile, Beaufort County's contact with the outside world of commerce and industry remains in the form of railroads, lighthouses, oyster factories, packing sheds, and canning factories.

### ***Building Materials***

Beaufort County's above-ground historic resources reflect patterns of building and building materials throughout the Lowcountry during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Local conditions gave rise to particular adaptations both in styles and in building materials. The expressions of national building styles and types will be discussed in greater detail later in this chapter. Local building materials are an element in the context that is necessary to understand these types and styles. In the colonial and early National period, for example, there were principally three types of building materials available in Beaufort County: wood, brick, and tabby. Rather than being used in isolation, these materials were often combined within the same building.

Wood was the most readily available material in the County in the earliest decades of settlement. Rather than the lighter weight “balloon-frame” houses using pre-cut 2x4 lumber which came about in the nineteenth century, early wood houses were framed with timber. These houses used substantial vertical and horizontal members joined together with a combination of cut joints and wooden pegs, and occasionally relied on substantial masonry works such as a chimney for additional support. The timber frame then provided a “cage” of sorts on which the exterior and interior walls were hung. This was the building technology that was used to create many of the early houses and other buildings in Beaufort County, as throughout the new nation, well into the nineteenth century.

Many timber frame houses and stores remain in Beaufort County, both in the rural areas and in the City of Beaufort and the Town of Port Royal. In Beaufort County in particular, many houses used a combination of wood and tabby. The earliest of these is the William Johnson House (c. 1776; site number 025 0858). Like many buildings of the eighteenth and early nineteenth century, the first floors of this building are constructed of tabby, providing strength, stability, and relative immunity from the dangers of water. The upper floors, meanwhile, were constructed of timber, which was relatively lighter and more easily placed in high places. An early example of this type of construction is the DeSaussure store (1760; site number 025 0915) on Bay Street in Beaufort.

Brick was relatively scarce in Beaufort County through the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, before bricks began to be manufactured on Ladies Island in 1840. The early use of brick seems to have been restricted to northern Beaufort County; Robert Mills noted a “neat brick courthouse” at Coosawhatchie in 1826, and the Prince William’s Parish Church (c. 1750, site 470 0049) was built of brick. The County has few deposits of clay suitable for brickmaking. The survey included only one known brickyard site (site number 290 0301.08) on Port Royal Island. According to a c. 1812 deed, however, the James Robert Verdier House, or “Marshlands” (site number 025 0758) was located on an old brick making site.<sup>1</sup>

While brick was available in small quantities in northern Beaufort County, tabby became southern Beaufort County’s alternative to stone or brick as a building material. Important tabby buildings remain from the middle of the eighteenth century into the early nineteenth century. In 1796, the duc de la Rochefaucauld Liancourt visited Beaufort and observed the preparation of tabby:

[t]abby is a lime made from oyster shell mixed with water; a large proportion of whole oyster shells is mixed in. This mortar is poured into wooded frames the length and thickness of the wall to be constructed. These forms have no bottoms but their sides are joined at certain intervals at top and bottom by pieces of wood. The mortar is pounded in with force, and, when they are brim full left for two or three days.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Interview with Cynthia Cole Jenkins, Charleston, South Carolina, March 1998.

<sup>2</sup>Duc de la Rochefaucauld Liancourt, 1799, cited in Michael Trinkley et al, 1990.

Buildings and structures which were built of tabby tended to be near water, the source of the shells, as the inconvenience of hauling shells lessened their desirability in places more removed from the water. Tabby tended to replace other kinds of masonry as a way to provide support in foundations for houses and barns, as will be discussed later in this chapter.

This type of building activity at the County's plantations and in the Town of Beaufort ceased during the Civil War; indeed, the War marks a watershed in local architectural as well as social history. Before 1862 the stage was set for continued development of indigenous local building traditions dependent upon local skills and materials. After the Civil War, skilled workers dispersed, and those buildings on which they or their forebears had labored were burned or fallen into ruin. The future of rural building lay not with labor intensive craft-based technology but with standardized components and prefabricated units, in both wood and metal.

The most influential of these developments was the balloon frame system for building houses. This was a structural system developed in the mid-West in the 1830s. In this system, prefabricated 2x4 boards, closely spaced and held together by nails, formed the structure of a house. With new steam mills capable of producing these boards in great quantity and at low cost, and with new foundries capable of producing vast amounts of inexpensive wire nails, the materials for building a house could be had at ever-lower costs. At the same time, it was a flexible structural system which allowed for houses with wider varieties of plans. The process of experimenting with the structural possibilities of balloon frame houses culminated in the late nineteenth century, when Queen Anne and Stick style houses with their widely varying and often highly original plans, and decorated with inexpensive sawn lumber features, dominated fashionable new neighborhoods. By the early twentieth century, the possibilities for producing large quantities of houses at low cost were increasingly exploited, as small houses with either front or side gables of more or less uniform plan dotted particularly the rural landscape.

### ***Property Types***

Beaufort County's architectural and above-ground resources can be divided into a number of different property types. Residences, both grand and modest, are only one among many types of historic buildings found in Beaufort County. Within these types, variations in function, material, and style account for differing visual impacts. An examination of Beaufort County's historic resources in reference to these types will provide the best basis for understanding the significance of the resources that remain. Relatively few buildings surveyed in this project could be clearly assigned a stylistic label such as Gothic Revival, Greek Revival, or Italianate. Even those "folk" buildings that have no identifiable academic style, however, can still be usefully categorized according to plan and the external clues as to how the interior space of the building is organized.

For the houses that defy the nomenclature of style, this survey uses the descriptive terminology recommended by McAlester and McAlester.<sup>3</sup> These types will be described in greater detail later in the chapter, and include front gable, gable front and wing, massed plan side gable, hall and parlor, I-house, and pyramidal. This approach, which relies principally on plan rather than style, permits organization and categorization, and thus comparison, which is not possible with a reliance either on academic styles, in which most of these buildings would be left out, or on vernacular terminology, which would be so inclusive as to become meaningless. The principal differences among the buildings in the rural areas of the County in particular are in plan and form, not in style. The comparisons that this approach allows will make possible future inquiries in the search for meaning to these differences.

The remainder of this chapter discusses the range of above-ground historic resources that were identified in the survey of Beaufort County. It is organized by building type, or function. Within the types, the discussion is organized both chronologically and, where applicable, by style or plan.

## ***Residences***

By far the greatest number of historic sites identified were houses. Of the 1488 sites identified in the county, 1121 (77 percent) are residences. Most of these are single family or vacation houses; only 17 multiple dwellings were identified. In the Town of Port Royal and the City of Beaufort, the proportion of residences was even higher; of 941 sites surveyed in these urban areas, 834 (88.6 percent) were single dwellings. Houses may be more likely to be preserved than stores or other commercial or manufacturing buildings, which go out of use as the business grows or dies. This observation, however, comes with a second observation that many older houses are left abandoned and are badly deteriorated, particularly when mobile homes and trailers are so convenient and affordable.

Approximately two-thirds (825 out of 1104) of the houses surveyed in Beaufort County could not be assigned an academic style. Of the one-third that were identified with a style, one-third (105) were identified as “Minimal Traditional,” the name given by the McAlesters to a new small-house plan with severely limited ornamental detail that developed in the mid-1930s.<sup>4</sup> The buildings that were given stylistic designations are important in showing Beaufort County’s uses and adaptations of national styles; the different styles represented in Beaufort County will be discussed in this section. Following the discussion of styles is a discussion of the houses for which no stylistic designation could be given, broken down by house type.

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<sup>3</sup>Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 1985), 88-101.

<sup>4</sup>McAlester and McAlester, *Field Guide to American Houses*, 476.

The survey includes houses that date from the middle of the eighteenth century nearly continuously through to the middle of the twentieth century. As Table 2 indicates, there are extant houses in Beaufort County for every decade since the 1760s. There are several eighteenth and early nineteenth century houses in the City of Beaufort. There was a boom in Beaufort and in the surrounding area in the post-Revolutionary era around the turn of the nineteenth century, as the large number of Federal-style houses of that era attest, and another in the late nineteenth century, as the number of houses in the Italianate style reveals.

Table 2. Construction dates of houses by decades	
Decade	Number of houses surveyed
1760-1769	2
1770-1779	2
1780-1789	6
1790-1799	4
1800-1809	12
1810-1819	7
1820-1829	7
1830-1839	4
1840-1849	8
1850-1859	19
1860-1869	4
1870-1879	25
1880-1889	55
1890-1899	48
1900-1909	97
1910-1919	117
1920-1929	172
1930-1939	196
1940-1949	259
1950-1959	59
no date determined	7
Total	1110

Houses in the City of Beaufort showed an inherent conservatism in building styles and forms throughout the nineteenth century, as the “Beaufort Style” predominated. This style was manifested in variations on the Federal style houses which emerged in the early nineteenth century. Georgian, Federal, and Greek and Gothic Revival styles dominate the county's surviving antebellum buildings, while the use of tabby for construction and the extensive two-tiered wrap-around porches add distinction to Beaufort County's examples of these national styles.

#### *English Colonial*

Two houses in the City of Beaufort, both on New Street in the Point, were built in what can be called Colonial styles. These date to c. 1760 and 1791, and relatively simple story-and-a-half side gabled houses set on raised foundations. Dormers and windows in the side gables provide light to the upper half-story. End chimneys provide a degree of symmetry, but the rest of the details of the buildings do not emphasize symmetry or balance.

#### *Georgian*

Georgian style houses came into popularity in the second third of the eighteenth century and lasted through the late nineteenth century, when the Federal style came into prominence. Georgian style houses tend to be side gable or hip roofed houses, at least two rooms deep, with “formal arrangement of parts employing a symmetrical composition enriched with classical detail.”<sup>5</sup> Of the two houses in Beaufort that were designed in the Georgian style, the William Johnson House on New Street (site number 025 0858) and the Chisolm House on Bay Street (site number 025 1031), the William Johnson House gives the clearest example of the style. This is an important provincial Late Georgian style two story timber-framed dwelling raised on tabby basement, with a hipped roof and exterior end chimneys. Its symmetrical five-bay facade faces the street to the east; the central entrance has a three-light transom.

#### *Federal*

Both the City of Beaufort and the sea island plantation are very strong in Federal style houses. This style, often known as the Adam style after the Scottish architect Robert Adam, is characterized by restraint, delicacy of lines and details, and attenuation of vertical members. Ornament tends to be low relief and geometrical. While both the Georgian and Federal styles drew on classical imagery, the Federal style was informed by a clearer, archaeologically-derived knowledge of specific ancient prototypes. This knowledge was spread through books of drawings of ancient ceramics and buildings by Robert Adam, and James Nicholas Revett. They published the finds of archaeological excavations at Pompeii and Athens.

Local variants within this dominant, national Federal style emerged, including both high style and folk adaptations. One dominant high style type has two or more stories, and is characterized by a “T” shaped floor plan. The lower section (i.e., the stem of the “T”) projected toward the street while the top section lay behind this and ran parallel to the street. Two early examples in Beaufort

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<sup>5</sup>John J.-G. Blumenson, *Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms, 1600-1945* (NY: W.W. Norton & Co., 1977; second ed., 1981).

are the Barnwell Gough House on Washington Street (c. 1780; site number 025 0882) and the Tabby Manse on Bay Street (c. 1785-90; 0251155). In the rural parts of the County, Tombee Plantation on St. Helena Island (c. 1810, site number 445 0054) is another example of this plan. All three buildings incorporate two full stories over an elevated basement, constructed of tabby, and the two houses in Beaufort feature tripartite windows lighting back rooms accommodated within the top part of the “T.” Inside all three houses, similar double pile floor plans are organized about a central hall, the hall in each case being approached from the front (the street in Beaufort, the marsh front at Tombee) by way of a two-story porch. In the Beaufort houses the porches feature pedimented roofs raised high on brick arches, while at Tombee a simpler shed roof is supported by square wood columns. As with most tabby structures in town, the exterior walls are stuccoed and scored to imitate stonework, while Tombee is clad in weatherboard. The hipped roof construction of each building features two parallel king post trusses running from front to back without intermediate support. The trusses receive rafters of the main roof frame which encloses rear spaces within cross gable forms. The plan has the advantage of allowing direct ventilation of rear rooms on three sides, though at the expense of long roof spans and complex roof carpentry.

Folk adaptations of the Federal style feature a two story central block with a two story gable ended or pedimented stair hall extending to the rear. Typically, one story high wings with shed roofs flank the stair hall to the right and left. These buildings are approached by way of a one or two story porch. Although structures of this kind are often designated “Beaufort Style,” it should be remembered that Mills Lane has identified a group of very similar Federal period farmhouses in rural North Carolina.<sup>6</sup> Lane sees the influence of popular pattern books in the generation such as William Halfpenny’s *Useful Architecture*, which was published in London in 1752 and numerous later editions).

While “T” shaped houses, both compact and grandiose in concept, remained popular in Beaufort until at least 1862, plantation architecture during the antebellum era displayed an occasional yet marked preference for linear planning and a gradual fragmentation of the standard “T” shaped plan into its constituent parts. It is worth stressing that the popularity of the so-called “Beaufort Style” is explained by two factors. First, the formula proved adaptable, allowing for a good deal of variation in terms of size, material, decorative mode, and cost. Second, and this was perhaps crucial, was the fact that “T” shaped or linear houses maximized cross ventilation without sacrificing any pretension to architectural distinction.

### *Greek Revival*

This is the style that so many people associate with the splendor of antebellum plantations. In Beaufort County, only one antebellum plantation main house in the Greek Revival style survives, the Oaks Plantation house (1854; site number 182 0035) (Figure 9). The rest of the antebellum plantation houses that survive were built earlier, and many in a less well-defined style. This survey of Beaufort County identified eight houses in the Greek Revival style; with the exception of Oaks

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<sup>6</sup>Mills Lane, *Architecture of the Old South: North Carolina* (1965), 111. See also Lane, *Architecture of the Old South: South Carolina* (Savannah, GA: The Beehive Press, 1984).



Plantation, all are in the City of Beaufort. Beaufort's earliest example is the first Berners Barnwell Sams house (site number 025 0865), built in 1816; its Greek Revival features, however, were not added until 1835. It was originally a two-story Federal style frame I-house, presumably with restrained decorations if any. In 1835 Sams added the porch, quoins, and parapet. In the other Greek Revival houses, facades are symmetrical with central doorways and large, two-storied porches supported by columns, generally in the Greek Doric order. Their construction varies, equally divided between frame and brick. All were the houses of wealthy families, many of whom had plantations in the area around Beaufort. Dr. William Jenkins, for example, who owned Lands End Plantation on St. Helena Island, bought the George Parson Elliot House (c. 1845; site number 025 1081) shortly before the Civil War.

### *Gothic Revival*

Only two houses in the County showed Gothic Revival features, both built around the time of the Civil War. Rose Hill Plantation House (c. 1859, site number 487 0042) was built by the Kirk family in southern Beaufort County. Its irregular plan, wood tracery, and board-and-batten siding contribute to its Gothic Revival feel. Perhaps the best known Gothic Revival house in Beaufort County, however, is "the Castle," the Dr. Joseph Johnson House on Craven Street (site number 025 0796), which was largely completed in 1861. This is a large two story brick house set on a raised basement, built in the familiar "T" shaped plan. It derives its Gothic Revival elements primarily from the brick parapet along the roof line, which contains corbeled pendants.

### *Italianate*

This was primarily a Victorian style, coming into favor in the years surrounding the Civil War and lasting until the turn of the century. In Beaufort County, the examples date from the early 1850s until the early twentieth century. Nationally it was a flexible style, capable of being used for both small scale cottages and larger, more formal and urban houses. In Beaufort County, however, this was principally an urban style, with eleven examples in the City of Beaufort and one in the rural area. Italianate houses are generally two or three stories tall with shallow roofs and wide overhanging eaves which often feature decorative brackets. The windows of Italianate houses are generally round-headed with crowns, while the roofs are often surmounted by a square cupola or tower.

Most Italianate houses in the City of Beaufort are two-story frame dwellings with the traditional two-story tiered porch. The Italianate style generally is revealed through details. The Edgar Fripp house, for example (1853 ca., site number 025 0751) is a two-and-a-half story frame house with a cross gable roof and a two-story tiered porch. Its picturesque grouping of gable elements and a central tower originally gave it its Italianate feel. A c. 1880 house on Duke Street (site number 025 0802) features the overhanging eaves with decorative brackets which are characteristic of the Italianate style, while the George Edward Doane house (c. 1885, site number 025 0817) has Italianate details in the cornices supported on decorative timber brackets. The lone Italianate style house outside the City of Beaufort is the Fort Fremont Hospital, near Fort Fremont on St. Helena Island (c. 1906, site number 389 0022). This is a two-and-a-half story brick house,

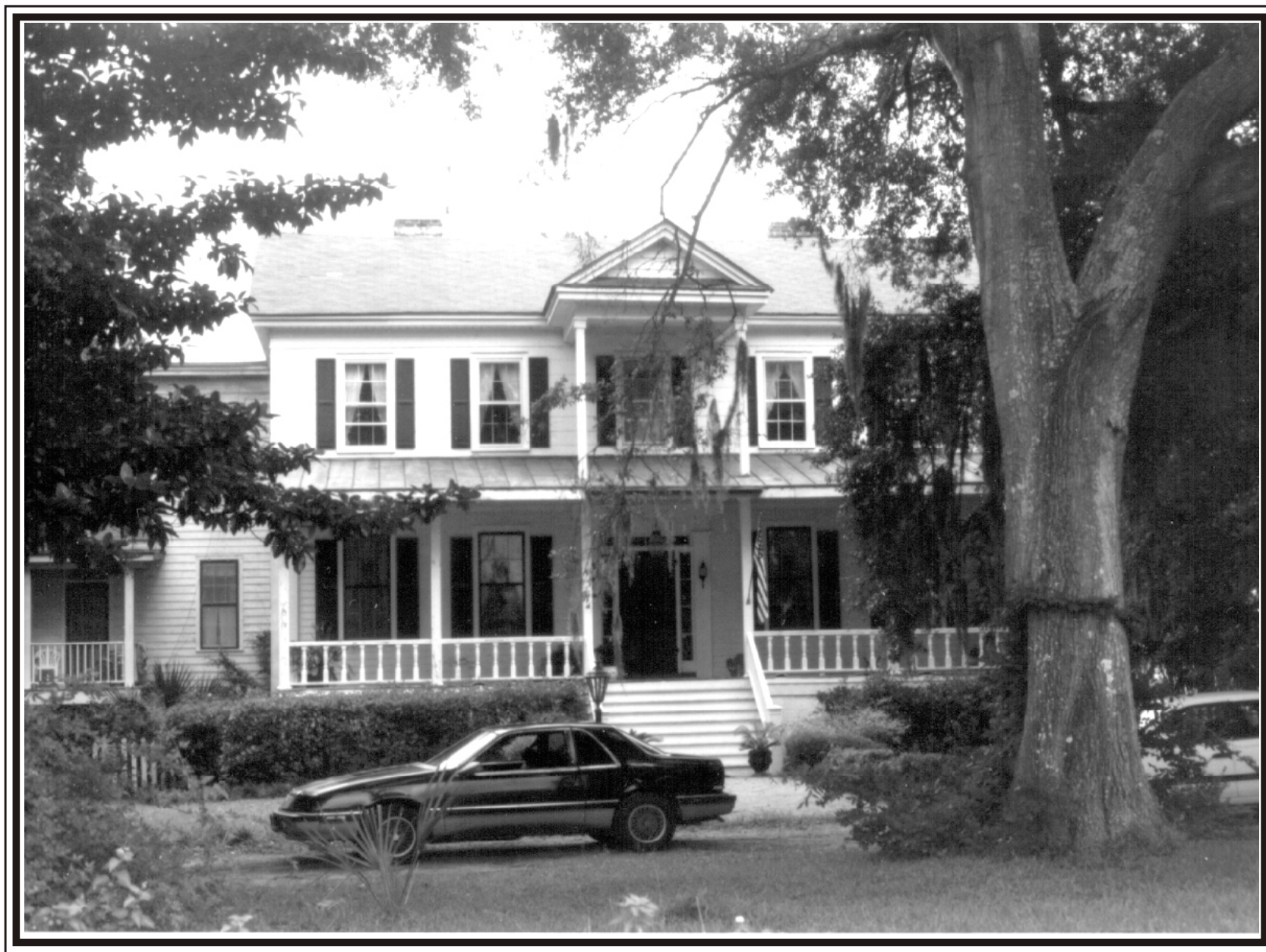


Figure 9. The Oaks Plantation, St. Helena Island, c. 1850. Site number 182 0035.

square in plan, with a hip roof and a single dormer on each side. In addition to being the only Italianate style house outside the City, it was also the last house built in that style in the County.

### *Queen Anne*

This is the house style that many people associate with the term “Victorian.” It is perhaps the most picturesque of the styles of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and can be the most irregular in plan. The surfaces of these houses were enlivened through a variety of means, including projecting bay windows, patterned shingles, spindles, and half-timbering. The great interest of Queen Anne houses is in the details, where decorative work can appear at nearly any juncture or on nearly any surface. Roof lines of Queen Anne houses can be very complex, with multiple cross gables often creating a jumbled appearance, while towers of various shapes rise above the roofs. One-story porches tend to appear on Queen Anne houses, and often wrap around several sides of the house. The porches offer additional avenues for decoration, including elaborate turned work, decorative brackets, and single or grouped columns of varying sizes.

The Queen Anne style made its appearance in Beaufort County in approximately 1890, when it became popular across the nation. As with the Italianate style, houses in the Queen Anne styles tend to occur most frequently in the City of Beaufort. Of the eleven identified Queen Anne houses in the County, only three are in the rural areas; of these three, two are found on the campus of Penn Center. In the City of Beaufort, there is an important cluster of Queen Anne style houses along Craven Street (Figure 10). There are three identical two-and-a-half story houses in a high Queen Anne style; originally there had been four, all in a row (site numbers 025 0860, 025 0861, and 025 0862). The merchant E.A. Scheper built these four houses between 1892 and 1894. In each of them, the main south facade features three bays incorporating at both first and second floor levels a doorway to the right and two French doors to the left. A tall pedimented south gable has a central decorative motif flanked right and left by small windows. Each wing has chamfered corners at first floor level. Finally, each has a tiered two story porch that features spindle work, turned columns, decorative brackets, and turned balustrades.

Other, less exuberant but nonetheless identifiable Queen Anne houses can be found throughout the County. The earliest of these is the caretaker’s house at Coffin Point Plantation (c. 1892, site number 442 0012), which features a short turret along with the irregular roof line typical of Queen Anne houses. There are two later Queen Anne houses at Penn Center. The Benezet House (1905, site number 182 0038.11) and the Pine Grove Cottage (c. 1921, site number 182 0038.06) feature more restrained facades and plans, but show elements of the Queen Anne style nonetheless.

### *Shingle*

This was a style that emerged in the late nineteenth century, and was popular nationally only briefly, through the 1920s. It had clear relations with its contemporary, the Queen Anne style. Like the Queen Anne style, it often represented innovations and experimentations in plans that exploited the possibilities of balloon frame construction. Shingles became like a flexible skin that could be applied to houses of any shape and plan. While the Queen Anne style was used primarily in urban settings, or in rural settings by those with more urban pretensions, the Shingle style was through and

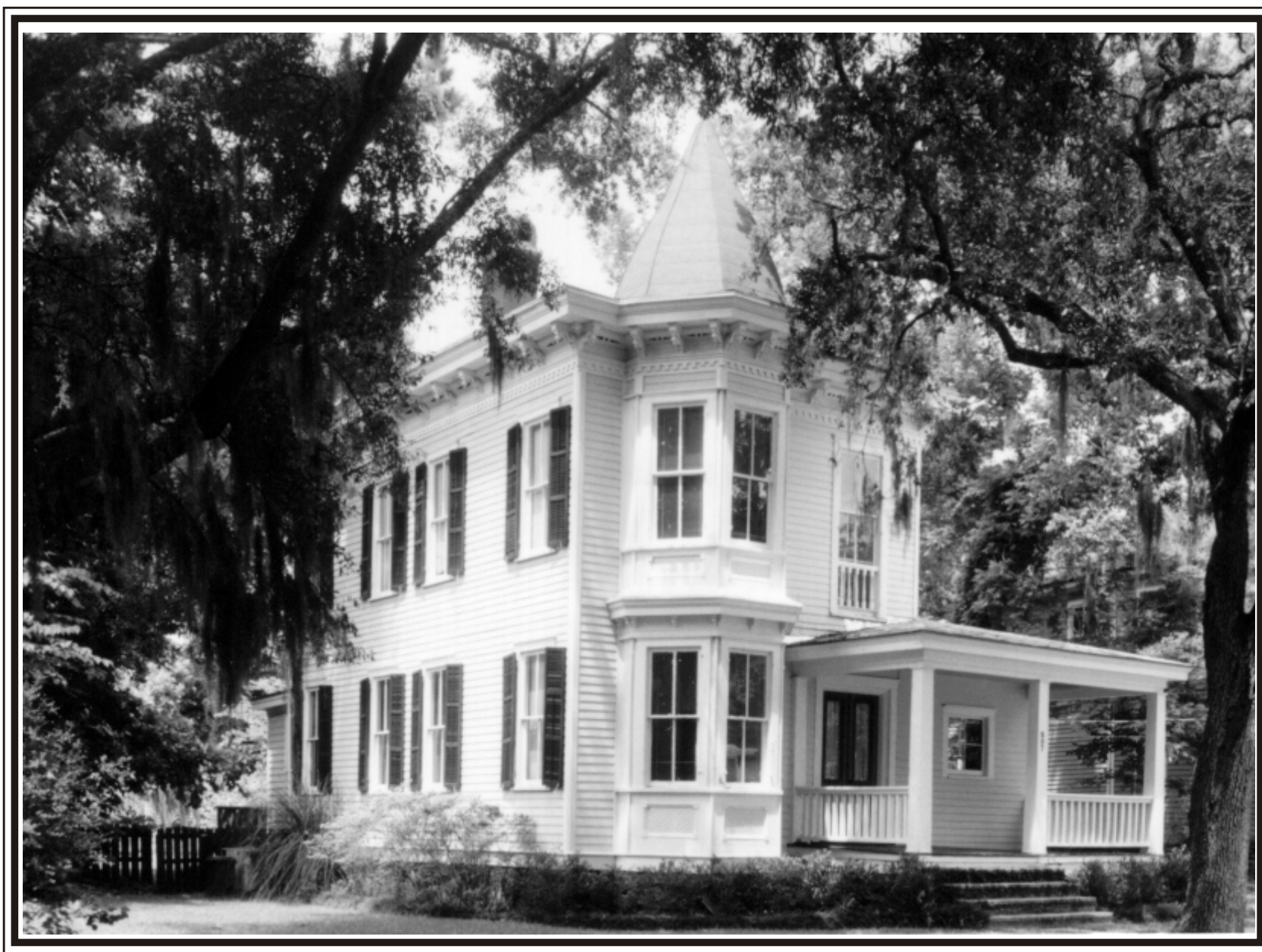


Figure 10. 507 Craven Street, Beaufort, c. 1885. Site number 025 0826.



through a resort style, designed for leisure. It was, as its early interpreter called it, “The Architecture of the American Summer.”<sup>7</sup> It emerged from travels through New England’s colonial seacoast towns in the late 1870s by some of America’s leading architects who, in the wake of the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876, sought the roots of American architecture. Among the buildings they sketched were rambling houses from the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries that were clad in riven shingles. Fascinated by this approach, a number of architects began applying it to the new resort houses which their clients, wealthy and prominent industrialists and financiers, commissioned. In this way the Shingle style gained its image as a style for leisure and recreation.

The earliest Shingle style house remaining in the survey area captures this image wonderfully. Melrose, on Lady’s Island (site number 025 0134), was built in 1906 for R.K. Harley, a Beaufort businessman involved in the local oyster industry.<sup>8</sup> Secluded from the hustle and bustle of commerce in the town of Beaufort, it overlooks the Beaufort River and provides a haven. There are two other Shingle style houses in Beaufort, both dating to the 1920s which makes them late for this style. One, on Ribault Road (c. 1910, site number 025 0723), is, like Melrose, in what was then a relatively remote, removed location overlooking the bay in Beaufort. The other (1924, site number 025 0867) is a smaller house, showing the adaptation of the style to a more urban setting.

#### *Victorian Cottage*

This is a style which is applied to relatively small-scale houses built generally in the late nineteenth century. These are one and one-and-one-half story frame houses, most often built with either hip or side gable roofs, and resting on brick pier foundations. Ten Victorian Cottage residences were found in the present survey, and range in date of construction from c. 1845 until 1911. They are nearly all found in the City of Beaufort.

#### *Colonial Revival*

In a sense the Shingle style (see above) was the first Colonial Revival style in America. By the turn of the twentieth century, however, the Colonial Revival had moved from these rustic examples to draw inspiration from the higher style Georgian of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. These later houses are nearly all side gable houses, generally one-and-one-half or two stories in height, and generally rectangular in plan. They feature accentuated front doors with projecting pediments, pilasters, fan and side lights, and topped with cornices or segmental arches. Other, more elaborate houses may have additional details such as dormer windows, prominent cornices with dentil moldings, and quoins at the corners.

This is a ubiquitous house style that has been associated with a wide range of meanings. In the late nineteenth century for a variety of reasons architects and homeowners began to look to America’s colonial past for inspiration. This was part of a wider cultural movement which sought

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<sup>7</sup>Vincent Scully, “Introduction,” in *The Architecture of the American Summer: The Flowering of the Shingle Style* (NY: The Temple Hoyne Buell Center for the Study of American Architecture, Columbia University, 1989).

<sup>8</sup>Interview with Robert Hartzog, grand-nephew of original owner, 9/24/97.

to find meaning and value in the specifically American past. This style, which included both decorative arts and architecture, emerged in the face of sweeping changes in American society that included increasing urbanization, industrialization, and immigration, as well as a greater interest in the both sentimental and scientific study of history. Many scholars have attributed the spread of the Colonial Revival to fears by traditional elites that the changes of the new order were destroying what believed to be the core of American society, the society which gave them a privileged status.

Other factors also seem to have encouraged the use of the Colonial Revival for southern plantation homes. In the South at the turn of the century, the descriptive terms "Southern," "classical," and "colonial" were often used interchangeably. This blending of stylistic terms can perhaps be traced to attempts on the part of southern leaders in the late nineteenth to overcome the images of the Civil War. These leaders sought to create a contrasting image of the South as fully a part of the nation's political and economic life. The colonial and early national period of American history, when classically derived styles were popular both for residences and, more importantly, for civic buildings, was also the last period before tensions over slavery and relative economic development between North and South drove the sections apart. The appeal to "colonial" architecture which was classically derived emphasized the political, social, and economic unity of the nation. By the turn of the century, many northern leaders were coming to find sympathy with southerners. At the same time, the image of the antebellum plantation was appealing to the new wealthy industrial leaders of the North, who sought to recreate in the plantations the image of refined gentility, without the ugly associations of slavery.

The survey found 35 Colonial Revival houses in Beaufort County; of these, most are in the City of Beaufort. The important exceptions are the early twentieth century plantation houses in northern Beaufort County. These will be discussed in more detail below. Of the 27 urban houses, only four were less than two stories in height. Of the remaining two and two-and-one-half story houses, most had hip roofs; there were only four cross gable houses and one front gable house (Figure 11). Only two of these houses were recorded as having dormer windows.

#### *Neoclassical Revival*

This style is clearly related in inspiration and motivation to the Colonial Revival style. It too was popular in the late nineteenth and especially the early twentieth centuries. Whereas the Colonial Revival style drew upon eighteenth century styles, especially the Georgian, the Neoclassical style of the turn of the century drew upon houses of the early and middle nineteenth century, particularly the Federal and Greek Revival styles. Eight Neoclassical style houses were identified in the survey of Beaufort County, all of them in the City of Beaufort. They date from 1900 to c. 1940. As in the Colonial Revival style, nearly all of these houses are one-and-one-half story hip roofed houses; only one house features a side gable roof. Nearly all feature frame construction; there is only one brick Neoclassical Revival style house in the survey area.

#### *Tudor Revival*

This style draws on images of medieval England for its inspiration. The historian Jackson Lears has explored the fascination that Americans in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries



Figure 11. 411 King Street, Beaufort, c. 1910. Site number 025 0793.

had with the medieval age, focusing on the desire for intense and real experiences that could pierce the perceived falsity and flabbiness of polite American culture.<sup>9</sup> The vogue for houses in a more or less accurate medieval style was relatively brief, lasting from the turn of the century to the late 1930s or early 1940s. Houses in this style tend to be one or one-and-a-half story houses with cross gabled roofs. They often have false half-timbering on the exterior walls, generally on the second half-story. Occasionally these houses will also have multi-pane casement windows and relatively large chimney piles. The survey of the County found four examples of Tudor Revival style houses, all in the City of Beaufort, dating from 1935 to 1940.

### *Craftsman*

Craftsman style houses drew inspiration from the Arts and Crafts movement in the late nineteenth century. Occasionally they are mistaken for simple front or side gable folk houses. The difference is the presence of visible architectural details. These houses feature such elements as low-pitched roofs, often with overhanging eaves and exposed rafters and occasionally with decorative brackets or beams. These houses also generally have projecting porches supported by wooden posts on brick or masonry piers. Most Craftsman houses are surmounted by either side or front gabled roofs; only occasionally are there hip or cross gable roofs (Figure 12). The vogue for this style lasted from about 1900 to the early 1930s.

The Beaufort County survey revealed 40 houses that were designed in the Craftsman style. These houses were built between 1904 and the early 1940s. Of the 38 houses for which the number of stories was indicated, 30 had one story, four had one-and-a-half stories, three had two stories, and one had two-and-a-half stories. Roof types were more evenly distributed. Of the 35 houses for which a roof type was indicated, thirteen had hip roofs, ten had a front gable, nine had a side gable, while three featured a cross gable.

### *Minimal Traditional*

Particularly in the years after WWII, most American houses tended to lose the formal and recognized stylistic associations that characterized houses through the early twentieth century. McAlester and McAlester, however, have identified a national style under which many of the new suburban houses which were built beginning in the 1930s and flourishing after WWII. Their name for this group of houses was “Minimal Traditional.” These tend to be one-story houses with a prominent off-center gable on the front, and constructed of brick. Their inspiration is roughly Tudor Revival, given the roof configuration, but they lack any other identifiable visible style. Given the tight time frame within which they often were built, they tended to be built in readily identifiable tracts or subdivisions.

Not so much an urban style as are many of the earlier national styles, Minimal Traditional houses are predominately suburban. In the years after WWII, when there was a significant boost of suburban houses, building took place primarily in the City of Beaufort and the Town of Port Royal;

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<sup>9</sup>T.J. Jackson Lears, *No Place of Grace: Antimodernism in American Culture 1880-1920* (NY: Pantheon Books, 1981).





Figure 12. 702 Hamilton Street, Beaufort, c. 1928. Site number 025 0787.

the development of housing tracts in more rural areas did not occur until later, after the survey dates and when the Minimal Traditional had largely passed out of style. Of the 106 Minimal Traditional style houses found in the survey, 85 are in the City of Beaufort and the remaining 21 are in the Town of Port Royal.

### *Folk House Types*

The foregoing discussion of the national styles represented in Beaufort County's historic single dwellings is very useful in understanding the impact of broader cultural and artistic trends in the area. However, only 25 percent of the houses included in the survey could be given any stylistic designation. Of the 1,108 single dwellings surveyed in this project, 282 gave evidence of a formal style. Thus three-quarters of the single dwellings in Beaufort County are left out of a stylistic analysis. In order to bring these houses into the analysis of the County's historic architecture, the survey team drew upon folk housing types as elaborated by McAlester and McAlester.

**Front gable** houses can be one or two story houses with one to three bays across the facade. Craftsman- and bungalow-influenced houses were the most prominent twentieth century examples of this pervasive type; unlike the buildings described in the Craftsman section above, however, many of these buildings lacked any clear stylistic associations and have been included in this folk section.

Based on the survey findings, front gable houses were the most popular form of folk housing in Beaufort County. It must be born in mind, however, that the majority of the houses built during this time, and well into the twentieth century, would have been simple frame houses for tenant and other small farmers. These houses were often built quickly and inexpensively, and were scattered throughout the agricultural areas of the County. Many of these tenant houses have been abandoned and deteriorated, or were razed and removed when the agricultural fields were turned over to timber farms. Table 3 shows the distribution and date range of the historic folk:front gable houses in Beaufort County.

**Gable front and wing** houses feature a front gable section with a side gabled wing at a right angle. A shed or hip roof porch was often added to the junction of the two wings. While these houses appear to have been altered over the years, the cross gable sections were often built as a unit. Table 4 shows the distribution and date range of the historic folk:gable front and wing houses in Beaufort County.

Table 3. Number and distribution of folk: front gable houses		
Area	Number	Date Range
Beaufort	119	c. 1855-c. 1950
Beaufort vicinity	4	1930-c. 1950
Bluffton vicinity	3	c. 1910-c. 1945
Burton vicinity	9	c. 1925-c. 1940
Coosaw Island	1	c. 1945
Dale vicinity	5	c. 1925-c. 1930
Daufuskie	2	c. 1920-c. 1925
Gardens Corner vicinity	1	c. 1925
Grays Hill vicinity	3	c. 1900-c. 1930
Ladies Island	15	c. 1920-c. 1930
Laurel Bay vicinity	1	c. 1930
Lobeco vicinity	2	c. 1935-c. 1950
Port Royal	33	c. 1873-c. 1954
Pritchardville	2	c. 1930
Pritchardville vicinity	6	c. 1920-c. 1930
Sams Point	2	c. 1930-c. 1940
Seabrook	1	c. 1945
Seabrook vicinity	2	c. 1920-c. 1926
Sheldon vicinity	20	c. 1910-c. 1950
St. Helena Island	16	c. 1920-c. 1940
Yemassee vicinity	1	c. 1935
Total	246	c. 1855-c. 1954

Table 4. Number and distribution of folk: gable front and wing houses		
Area	Number	Date
Beaufort	32	1890-c. 1912
Port Royal	1	c. 1900
Sheldon vicinity	1	c. 1945
St. Helena Island	2	c. 1920
Total	36	1890-c. 1945

**Hall and parlor** houses are simple side gabled houses that are two rooms wide and one room deep. This was a traditional British form that was an early implant in the American colonies. This plan remained the basic housing form throughout the southeast into the early twentieth century. Variations can include double-pitched roofs, ornamental front gables, and shed roof front porches, but the basic plan is readily identifiable. Table 5 shows the distribution and date range of the historic folk:hall and parlor houses in Beaufort County.

The **I-house** form was also a popular folk form throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth century, though it was more often used by moderately wealthy rural families. These side gable houses were two rooms wide with a central hallway, and one room deep, often with a one-story ell across the rear elevation. Houses of this sort were quite popular throughout the South, and drew upon notions of balance and symmetry from the eighteenth and early nineteenth century. The Witsell House near Dale (c. 1890, site number 120 0297), is a good example of the comfortable and moderately formal houses built by prosperous, if not wealthy, Victorian farmer/merchants. Table 6 shows the distribution and date range of the historic folk:I-houses in Beaufort County.

**Massed plan side gabled** houses, at least two rooms wide and two rooms deep, became more popular as a folk form after the Civil War. These houses could gain such popularity in the rural areas only after “light-weight lumber made widely available by the railroads permitted still simpler methods of light roof framing” that could span houses that were more than two rooms deep.<sup>10</sup> These houses often incorporate a central-hall plan, which is a more sophisticated form than the hall-and-parlor, in which one room serves as the entry hall and living space combined. The McLeod home in Seabrook (site number 470 0248.00) is a good example of this form, as a two-story house with a tiered two-story porch (Figure 13). It is a side gabled house, two room deep, with a central entrance and flanking windows. Table 7 shows the distribution and date range of the historic folk:massed plan side gabled houses in Beaufort County.

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<sup>10</sup>Catherine W. Bishir, Charlotte V. Brown, Carl R. Lounsbury, Ernest H. Wood III, *Architects and Builders in North Carolina: A History of the Practice of Building* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1990), 98..



Figure 13. William H. McLeod House, Seabrook, c. 1890. Site number 470 0248.00.

Table 5. Number and distribution of folk: hall and parlor houses		
Area	Number	Date
Beaufort	102	1870-c. 1950
Beaufort vicinity	6	1896-c. 1935
Bluffton vicinity	1	c. 1910
Dale vicinity	1	c. 1915
Grays Hill vicinity	1	c. 1945
Ladies Island	3	c. 1930-c. 1940
Port Royal	6	c. 1885-1940
Port Royal vicinity	1	c. 1930
Pritchardville	2	c. 1910
Seabrook	1	c. 1900
Seabrook vicinity	1	c. 1930
Sheldon vicinity	4	c. 1930
St. Helena Island	7	1911-1942
Total	136	1870-c. 1950

Table 6. Number and distribution of folk: I-house		
Area	Number	Date
Beaufort	21	1830-1920
Beaufort vicinity	1	1900
Port Royal	1	1891-1900
Seabrook	1	1900
St. Helena Island	1	c. 1920
Total	24	1830-c. 1920

Table 7. Number and distribution of folk: massed plan side gable houses		
Area	Number	Date
Beaufort	80	c. 1840-c. 1950
Beaufort vicinity	2	c. 1880-c. 1925
Bluffton vicinity	3	1919-c. 1940
Burton vicinity	3	c. 1920-c. 1940
Cat Island	1	c. 1930
Coosaw Island	1	c. 1935
Dale	1	c. 1900
Dale vicinity	5	c. 1915-c.1945
Daufuskie Island	13	c. 1910-c. 1945
Gardens Corner vicinity	5	c. 1900-c. 1945
Grays Hill vicinity	3	c. 1920-c. 1925
Ladies Island	3	c. 1910-c. 1930
Port Royal	19	c. 1887-c. 1951
Port Royal vicinity	4	1881-c. 1930
Pritchardville	4	c. 1910
Pritchardville vicinity	3	c. 1930
Sams Point	1	c. 1925
Seabrook	1	c. 1930
Seabrook vicinity	3	c. 1930-c. 1940
Sheldon vicinity	8	c. 1920-c. 1945
Yemassee vicinity	5	c. 1925-c. 1930
St. Helena Island vicinity	1	c. 1930
St. Helena Island	3	1920-c. 1945
Total	169	c. 1840-c. 1951

Finally, **pyramidal houses** were square in plan and featured four-sided hipped or pyramidal roofs. This plan and form became popular in the South in the early twentieth century. Perhaps the best examples, and in the greatest concentrations, can be found on Daufuskie Island. Three of these, and perhaps more, were built by a local carpenter/builder, Samuel Holmes. Table 8 shows the distribution and date range of historic folk: pyramidal houses in Beaufort County.

Table 8. Number and distribution of folk: pyramidal houses		
Area	Number	Date
Beaufort	24	1910-1945
Beaufort vicinity	1	c. 1935
Bluffton vicinity	2	c. 1920-c. 1925
Burton vicinity	3	c. 1910-c. 1940
Daufuskie Island	11	c. 1910-c. 1921
Gardens Corners vicinity	2	c. 1900-c. 1910
Grays Hill vicinity	1	1910
Ladies Island	2	c. 1915-c. 1925
Port Royal	8	c. 1895-1941
Port Royal vicinity	3	c. 1920-c. 1930
Pritchardville	1	c. 1930
Pritchardville vicinity	2	c. 1910-c. 1920
Seabrook	1	c. 1905
Sheldon vicinity	2	c. 1925-c. 1940
St. Helena Island	6	c. 1920-c. 1930
St. Helena vicinity	1	c. 1920
Total	70	c. 1895-1945

### ***Farm and Plantation Complexes***

Many of Beaufort County's historic resources, and several of the most noteworthy residences, are parts of complexes of buildings and sites. The process of erecting complexes of buildings began with the plantations of the eighteenth century, when staple crops required the mobilization of large numbers of permanent workers. Throughout the Lowcountry, where towns



were very few, plantations were nearly self-sufficient units with main houses for the owners, smaller houses grouped together for slaves and overseers, and associated utilitarian outbuildings such as kitchens, barns, stables, smokehouses, and overseers' houses.<sup>11</sup>

These colonial and antebellum plantations established a pattern of spatial organization that featured distinct sets of buildings of different types and functions. This template survived the Civil War, though the functions of the post-bellum complexes often differed from their antebellum prototypes. The plantations of the late nineteenth century were likely to be designed for recreation as much as agriculture, while the new economic conditions gave rise to complexes devoted to processing the new truck crops of the early twentieth century and that were oriented to the railroads as much as to fields or waterways.

Among the surviving pre-Civil War plantation buildings, the oldest is Retreat Plantation (site number 025 0621), a single story tabby dwelling, now extensively altered, built in the 1760s. Small pre-Revolutionary tabby houses like this often served as the nucleus for larger houses built in southern Beaufort County during the early nineteenth century when sea island cotton profits began to rise sharply. Both B.B. Sams on Dataw Island (site number 182 1425) and George Edwards on Spring Island (487 0313) created new houses by adding tabby wings to the right and left of an original structure and connecting the three masses with porches. These tripartite houses were designed to capture every breeze blowing in from nearby estuaries. Both men extended their design activities into the domestic landscape. Edwards created a formal garden between his house and the Chechessee River, which included two small square tabby pavilions (one perhaps an office, the other a storehouse) with pyramidal roofs, while Sams created a large fenced yard containing a kitchen, store, and quarters for his household slaves.

Fripp (Seaside) (site number 445 0048.0) (Figure 14) and Coffin Point Plantation (site number 442 0012) (Figure 3) houses on St. Helena Island were more traditional with a rectangular rather than a tripartite plan. Coffin Point is a timber framed house over a high raised tabby basement, an arrangement that was popular in Beaufort in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The Fripp Plantation, however, which preserves much fine Federal style detail, was raised high on brick pillars. Tombee Plantation (site number 445 0054) features a two-story T-shaped timber frame raised on a tabby basement. It is rare to find any plantation site on the sea islands of Beaufort County that does not have tabby structures.

Among several hundred known tabby structures, nearly all now ruined, slave dwellings are represented by small houses with tabby and tabby brick end chimneys laid out on an arc-like plan at Haig Point on Daufuskie Island (site number 046 0485), which were built in the 1820s. A two story tenement block (c. 1815) flanking the main Edwards House on Spring Island (site number 487 0313) shows a very different typology. This building, which is similar to a tabby structure at White Hall Plantation in Jasper County, contained four single room apartments, each with its own fireplace,

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<sup>11</sup>See John Michael Vlach, *Back of the Big House: The Architecture of Plantation Slavery* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1993).



Figure 14. Fripp Plantation, St. Helena Island, c. 1800. Site number 445 0048.

arranged about a common central hall and access staircase. Another structure testifies to an almost forgotten tradition of temporary housing for slaves. This is the tabby foundation on Callawassie Island that defines a house measuring ten feet square with a central hearth.

Even though a great deal of evidence has been lost, what emerges from this survey of the pre-Civil War plantation architecture of Beaufort County is a dynamic picture of planters coming to terms with the area's unique environmental and geographical conditions. The lack of incombustible building materials (brick and stone) led to experimentation, such as the local florescence of tabby construction after the American Revolution, producing a series of houses of innovative form. As Samuel Gaillard Stoney remarked, "certain plantation houses with their elaborated wings, mark attempts to give with some architectural distinction more and better spaces for windows and cross ventilation so necessary for comfort in the Low Country."<sup>12</sup> This is not to say that traditional design found no expression. Fripp (Seaside) Plantation (site number 445 0048.00), and later the Oaks Plantation (site number 182 0035) (Figure 10) were characteristic products of the vernacular builder who, with considerable skill, found the means to integrate fashionable stylistic elements, whether Federal, Greek Revival, or Classical Revival types, into building forms with long historical antecedents. Symmetry was prized, central hallways were favored, and porches were considered essential no matter what stylistic pattern the owner may have sought to impose upon his domestic surroundings.

Few of these antebellum plantations retain their surrounding complexes. Scattered outbuildings remain, such as the tabby barn at Frogmore Plantation (site number 445 0026.01) on St. Helena Island. For intact complexes, one must instead turn to the post-bellum plantations. Unlike the antebellum plantations, most of which survive only on the sea islands, those after the Civil War can be found primarily in northern Beaufort County. The upper reaches of the Combahee and Pocolaligo Rivers were once the domain of the County's wealthy rice planters. Rice went into a steep decline after the Civil War, in the absence of forced labor to do the arduous work of maintaining the elaborate water control features of the rice fields.

Many of these northern Beaufort County plantations shared a common history after the Civil War. Prominent families in the Lowcountry had owned these properties in the eighteenth and early nineteenth century, families with surnames such as Izard, Brewton, Blake, McPherson, Gregorie, and Middleton. Families indeed owned them, as the plantations tended to pass through successive generations of the same family, occasionally being diverted by marriage to another equally prominent surname; such was the case when Thomas Hanckel, the rector of St. Philips Church in Charleston, married Susanna Thomas Heyward and gained possession of Twickenham Plantation (site number 569 0482).<sup>13</sup> As testament to the wealth of these antebellum families, many of them were able to keep hold of their Beaufort County plantations through the Civil War. Plantations were

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<sup>12</sup>Samuel Gaillard Stoney, *Plantations of the Carolina Low Country* (Charleston, SC: Carolina Art Association, 1938; reprint edition, NY: Dover Publications, Inc., 1989), 44-45.

<sup>13</sup>Linder, *Historical Atlas*, 596.

rarely farmed to their antebellum capacity, however, and declining fortunes led to the sale of nearly all of them to outside buyers by the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries. Brewton Plantation (site number 569 1419), for example, stayed in the hands of the McPhersons and Gregories until 1899, while Williams Middleton sold what became Auldbrass Plantation (site number 569 0003) to James U. Jackson, a timber company owner from Augusta, Georgia, in 1899. Tomotley Plantation (site number 5470 0481), meanwhile, stayed in the Izard/Eustis families until a court sale in 1873; by 1907 Henry Havemeyer, of the American Sugar Refining Company, owned the property.

With few exceptions, it was these later owners who built the grand plantation houses that now grace northern Beaufort County. The earliest of these is the house at Twickenham, which was built for Major John Screven, one of the few antebellum planters to keep land in the family into the twentieth century. This is a large two and a half story brick residence set on a raised foundation. This house falls in the traditions of plantation houses in the Lowcountry, featuring a symmetrical facade with a central entrance; inside, a central hallway separates two rooms on each side.

Of the twentieth century neo-plantation houses, there were two divergent patterns. One strain sought to replicate the grandeur of antebellum plantation with two-story Colonial Revival mansions. While often imposing, these houses had little to do stylistically with the antebellum houses. Willis Irvin was the prepotent designer of this type of house in the Lowcountry. Irvin, an Augusta, Georgia architect, designed several plantation houses in Jasper County and three houses that were included in the Beaufort County survey: Clarendon (1933; site number 290 0301), Castle Hill (1935; site number 569 1423), and Bray's Island (1938; site number 470 290) (Figure 15). All three of these are two story houses with painted brick exteriors. Clarendon and Bray's Island show the greatest affinities, featuring two story central blocks underneath hipped roofs, with one-story wings to each side. Castle Hill, however, is a cross gable house on a slightly smaller scale. It still has recognizable features such as a closed pediment with dentil moldings and an elaborate central entrance.

Another pattern in Beaufort County's twentieth century plantation houses can be seen in Tomotley Plantation (1910; site number 470 0481, designed by Charleston architects Todd & Benson), Brewton Plantation (1930; site number 569 1419), and Auldbrass Plantation (1940; site number 569 0003). All three of these houses emphasize horizontality, rather than sporting a tall central block. The main house at Tomotley Plantation was built in 1910 for Robert L. McCurdy, who bought the property from the Havemeyer family. McCurdy, an executive with the New York Mutual Life Insurance Company, was a member of the Okeetee Club in Jasper County, and purchased the property for use as a hunting retreat. The main house is a low building influenced by Craftsman or Mission styles with its tiled roof and overhanging eaves. It has been substantially altered in recent years, but the early twentieth century feel is still present. The main house at Brewton Plantation (site number 569 1419) was built by John Gregorie on the site of the original house in 1893; in the early 1930s John R. Todd, a New York engineer who had bought the plantation, added substantially to the house, making it a low, rambling house with asymmetrical rear wings. Todd also built the small barnyard complex and other outbuildings close to the main house, and planted the oak avenue.

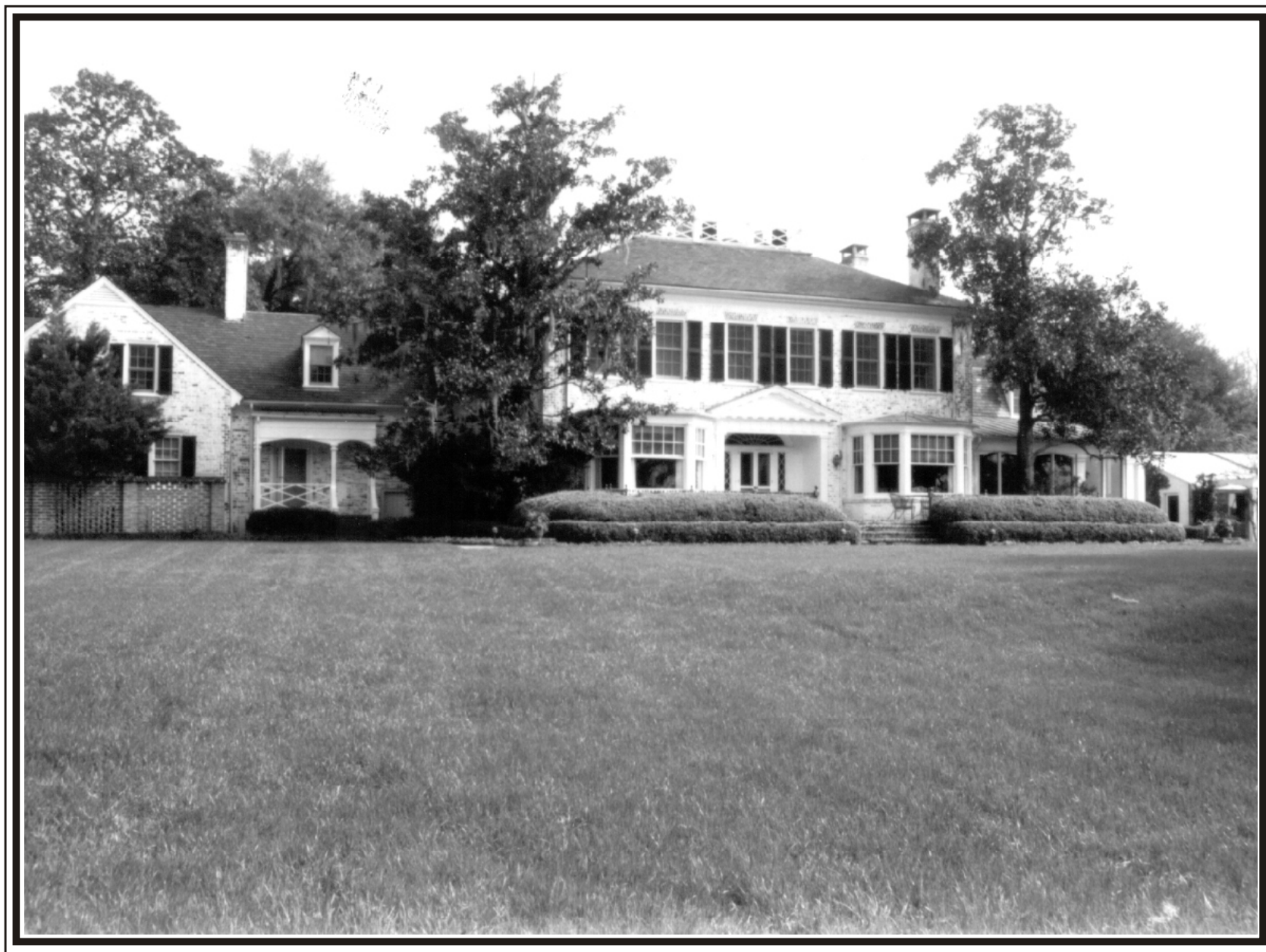


Figure 15. Brays Island Plantation, 1938. Site number 470 0290.00.



Auldbrass Plantation along the Combahee River near Yemassee is the latest of these horizontal houses. Frank Lloyd Wright designed the house, barn, and other outbuildings in the early 1940s. His organic approach to architecture is clearly revealed in this complex of buildings, where the low buildings arise from the level ground at the same angle as the live oaks, several degrees off a right angle. They blend in with the landscape as a result.

All of these houses are components of more or less well-defined plantation complexes. While they all maintain agricultural trappings, few make claims to being significant working farms. Instead, these were designed to be retreats, and used as country estates or hunting camps on a grand scale. There is a clear sense of spatial order among the outbuildings, and between the outbuilding complexes and the main house, at several of the plantations, including Brewton, Bray's Island, Twickenham, and Auldbrass. With the exception of Bray's Island, the outbuilding complexes at each of these is adjacent to the main houses. At Bray's Island there is a well-defined complex of stables, barns, and small houses that surrounds a small unplanted circle approximately one-half mile from the main house, which overlooks the Pocotaligo River. The drive from the main entrance enters the circle at one end, while the other is closed by a small house; the stables face each other across the circle, with paddocks behind them.

At Brewton and Twickenham, the outbuilding complexes are essentially extensions of the main house; scale, style, and function, not distance, distinguish the outbuildings from the main house. Four barns of different form are shaped into a "U" at Brewton Plantation, and create a distinct barnyard, while two small houses and a garage are in a line separating the main house from the barns. At Twickenham, the caretaker's house connects the main house with the stable complex, which includes a nicely detailed stable and several barns of varying sizes. Auldbrass Plantation, meanwhile, permits few distinctions between the main house and the agricultural complex. All of the buildings have a similar style, particularly the walls slanted at 10 degrees from vertical, and are connected with covered walkways. Unity of treatment is the dominant theme here.

The twentieth century brought not only new plantations to Beaufort County, but new industries. Of these, truck farming is one of the most important. An excellent collection of commercial and manufacturing buildings in Beaufort County can be found at Seabrook (site number 470 0248).<sup>14</sup> Seabrook was the truck farming complex created by William Hardee McLeod in the late nineteenth century. This district clearly shows the resources necessary to maintain a largely self-sufficient operation. The community featured two stores directly alongside either side of the tracks of the Port Royal and Augusta Railroad at the point where Seabrook Road crosses the tracks. Both of these stores have two stories and a front gable, and a shed roof porch for the comfort and convenience of shoppers and to protect the store from the sun. A two-story frame cotton gin building is set back slightly from the railroad tracks behind one of the stores.

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<sup>14</sup>Natalie Harvey, "National Register of Historic Places, Registration Form, McLeod Farmstead, Seabrook, South Carolina."

## ***Commercial Buildings***

The town of Beaufort was a commercial and shipping center from its earliest years in the eighteenth century, and featured the standard range of stores and other associated commercial buildings in southern coastal town such as wharves, warehouses, and gins. Merchants who had commercial interests in Beaufort, Savannah, and Charleston built houses along Bay Street and some of the cross streets extending back to Boundary. It was standard through the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries to have stores enclosed within or adjacent to the house of the owner of the store. Few of these pre-Revolutionary buildings remain in the town, however. 715 Bay Street (c. 1765, site number 025 0915) incorporates a store belonging to Daniel DeSaussure's establishment. DeSaussure's house survives as a tabby foundation in the now unoccupied lot to the east (site number 025 0914). Diagonally opposite, on the south side of Bay Street, stands a three story tabby house built by Captain Francis Saltus (c. 1797, site number 025 0977). The associated tabby store where Saltus conducted his mercantile and ship building business at 812 Bay Street is, after a long history of post-Civil War alteration, now known as the John Cross Tavern (1796, site number 025 0979).<sup>15</sup>

While most of the commercial buildings in the County are located in the City of Beaufort, as can be seen in Table 9, there were commercial buildings throughout the County. The remaining rural commercial buildings in Beaufort County date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Small stores began to emerge throughout the rural areas of the County as agricultural work became less centralized through the increase in tenant farming. These turn-of-the-century stores are nearly uniform in appearance, and relate to similar types of stores throughout the Lowcountry. They tend to be narrow front gable buildings, constructed with a wood frame, and generally only one room wide with a large projecting portico supported by metal posts (Figure 16). There are examples throughout the County, including Lobeco (site number 120 0155.01), Pritchardville (site number 441 0455), and Jasper Station (site number 251 0440). Another commercial form emerged in the 1930s and 1940s to serve larger needs. Two stores on Wall Street in Yemassee (site numbers 569 0152, 569 0154) (Figure 17) show this form, which includes either frame or concrete block construction, a central door between display windows, and a front gable hidden behind a sham stepped gable. The City of Beaufort and the Town of Port Royal have many examples of these storefront buildings.

The new Coastal Highway, what is now US 17, provided many commercial possibilities. Several entrepreneurs took advantage of these possibilities. An excellent pre-1950 example of the impact of the Coastal Highway is the Gardens Corner Motel (site number 470 0288), which was built in 1949. This building represents a clear use of architectural style to promote a commercial end; the Gardens Corner Motel was designed with reference to Mt. Vernon, George Washington's plantation in Virginia, and refers also to the resurgence of interest in the Colonial Revival after World War II.

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<sup>15</sup>Colin Brooker, *Architectural and Archaeological Investigation at 802 Bay Street, Beaufort, South Carolina* (Beaufort, SC: Brooker Architectural Design, 1996).



Figure 16. 337 May River Road, c. 1910. Site number 411 0455.





Figure 17. Hughes General Store, Yemassee, c. 1930. Site number 569 0154.

It is similar to another Mt. Vernon-inspired post-World War II motel in Ridgeland (Jasper County), also on US 17.

Table 9. Number and distribution of commercial buildings		
Area	Number	Date
Beaufort	50	1760-c. 1950
Beaufort vicinity	2	c. 1920-c. 1935
Gardens Corner	1	1949
Lobeco	1	c. 1945
Port Royal	9	c. 1870-1950
Pritchardville vicinity	2	c. 1910-c. 1920
Seabrook	2	c. 1875-c. 1880
St. Helena Island	2	c. 1877-c. 1945
Yemassee	3	c. 1930
Total	72	1760-c. 1950

### ***Religious Buildings***

Religious buildings as a property type can be broken into three principal subsets: churches, synagogues, and praise houses. Churches are clearly the most numerous examples of religious architecture in Beaufort County. The City of Beaufort has the greatest number of historic churches in Beaufort County, though there are important surviving examples of nineteenth and twentieth century churches throughout the rural areas. Table 10 shows the number of religious buildings in the different areas of the County.

The Anglican Church was the established church in colonial South Carolina. Each parish in Beaufort County had its own established church: St. Helena, St. Lukes, and Prince William's. These churches show a changing sense of style. In Beaufort County as throughout early America, churches tended to follow the English example: a rectangular floor plan oriented principally east-west, with a galleried interior and a chancel/apse at the west end. In style, these buildings were typically Georgian through the eighteenth century, to be replaced with variations on the Greek Revival in the nineteenth century. St. Helena Episcopal Church (site number 025 1105) on Church Street in Beaufort clearly reflected the Georgian architecture, particularly after being substantially rebuilt in 1817 and 1842. Prince William's Parish Church, or Old Sheldon Church (site number 470 0049) (Figure 1), built between 1745 and 1755, was also an influential building, as a very early example of the Greek Revival form in America. St. Lukes Church (251 0045) followed this example

but in a more restrained and modified form of the Greek Revival with a central entrance under a front gable, and a lower entrance portico.

Table 10: Number and distribution of religious buildings		
Area	Number	Date
Beaufort	14	1817-c. 1940
Beaufort vicinity	2	1844-c. 1875
Bluffton vicinity	3	1935-1940
Dale vicinity	1	c. 1920
Daufuskie Island	3	c. 1918-1940
Lady's Island	3	c. 1855-1900
Port Royal	3	1878-c. 1925
Priesters vicinity	1	c. 1945
Pritchardville vicinity	1	1824
Sheldon vicinity	1	c. 1750
St. Helena Island	6	c. 1750-1855
Total	38	c. 1750-c. 1940

The temple-front Greek Revival church was the most dominant form in antebellum American churches, regardless of the denomination. Beaufort County has a number of examples of this style, both in its academic and its vernacular forms. The Baptist Church of Beaufort on Charles Street (site number 025 1073), built in 1844, provides the finest example of a high style Greek Revival church. It is in a temple form with a front gable. The entrance is set within a recessed portico, behind two large columns in the Doric order. The steeple, however, the upper stages of which were constructed in the 1960s, is a reference to the Georgian pattern of the eighteenth century in having a series of clearly articulated stages beneath a peaked top, rising from the front of the building above the portico.

The Lady's Island Baptist Church (site number 025 0426), meanwhile, is an example of rural adaptations of the Greek Revival temple front church (Figure 18). Built in approximately 1855, this church features two separate front doors underneath a projecting portico. The portico has returned eaves, and is supported by four monumental columns. Unlike the Baptist Church of Beaufort, the Lady's Island Baptist Church has two clearly defined stories, while it has no steeple. The St. Helena Baptist Church (Brick Church) (site number 182 0038.15), meanwhile, features a more restrained



Figure 18. Lady's Island Baptist Church, c. 1855. Site number 025 0426.



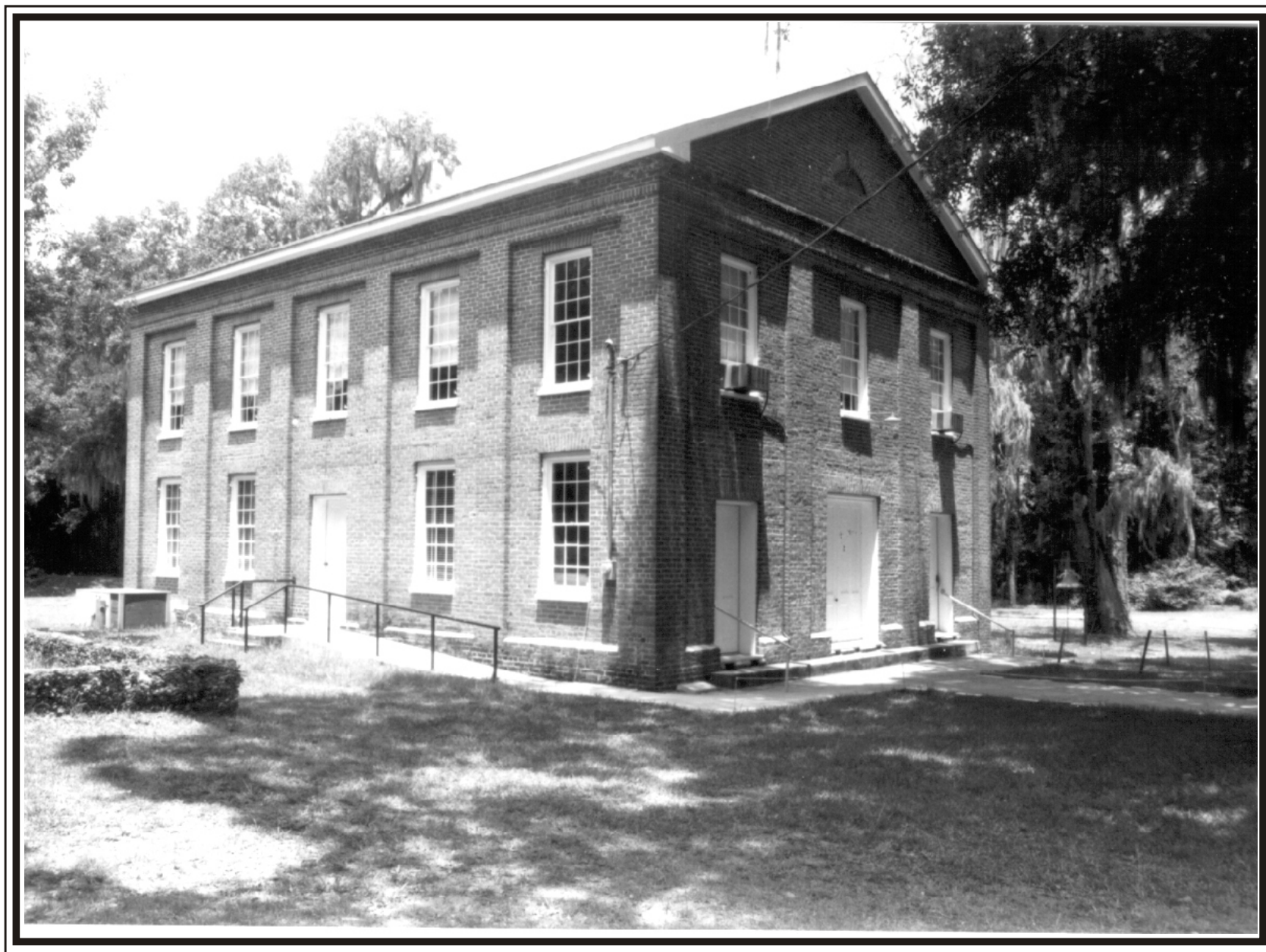


Figure 19. St. Helena Baptist Church (Brick Church), 1855. Site number 182 0038.15.

exterior without a projecting portico (Figure 19). Its lone embellishments are the series of two-story brick pilasters along all four sides, which give clear articulations to the bays of the church.

Other twentieth century churches were built throughout the County in a wide mix of styles. In Beaufort, the Carteret Street United Methodist Church (site number 025 0904) was built in 1922 in a neoclassical style with a temple front style porch screened by six masonry Ionic columns. The Berean Presbyterian Church (site number 025 0900), first used by African Americans, was built in 1900 in a folk Victorian style, but still showing a small pedimented porch with turned columns. The First Presbyterian Church (site number 025 1152) in Beaufort, built in 1929, was in a more formal Colonial Revival style. Other twentieth century churches outside Beaufort show more of a Greek Revival influence. The Broomfield United Methodist Church on Lady's Island (1900, site number 025 0410), for example, features a projecting pediment over a recessed entrance, while two remaining churches on Daufuskie Island (site numbers 046 0489 and 176 0325.00), built in 1941 and 1918 respectively, show similar Greek Revival features including recessed entrances under a projecting pediment and short spires above front entrances. Finally, three other modern churches returned to very simple, meeting house styles, with a rectangular, basilica plan without a steeple or portico. These churches, all near Dale and Lobeco in northern Beaufort County (site numbers 120 0140, 120 0181, 120 0197), were built between the 1920s and 1940s.

Only one synagogue was included in the survey of Beaufort County's architecture. This is the Beth Israel Synagogue (site number 025 0907) on Scott Street in Beaufort. It is a timber frame building in the Gothic Style, and was constructed in 1907.

A distinctive aspect of Beaufort County's religious life can be seen in the few "Praise Houses" which remain on St. Helena and Daufuskie Islands. These buildings date to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and continue to serve both as places of worship and as focal points for the surrounding communities. The buildings bear the names of the plantations which once surrounded them: Coffin Point Praise House (site number 442 0480), Eddings Point Praise House (site number 182 0018), Croft Praise House (site number 182 0015), and Jenkins Praise House (site number 182 0031) (Figure 20) on St. Helena Island. On Daufuskie Island, the one remaining praise house is the Union African Baptist Praise House (site number 176 0325.01) These praise houses are all nearly uniform in appearance and construction: simple frame buildings with a front gable and set on brick or concrete block pilings. Most have been modified slightly by the addition of a room on the rear of the building, but are otherwise distinctive forms.

### ***Manufacturing***

Beaufort, like Charleston and Savannah, was primarily a commercial city and not a manufacturing city; the rural areas of the County focused on agriculture and, later, timber and recreation. This is not to say that no manufacturing or processing took place in the City or the County. It was, however, primarily on a small scale, and focused on extractive industries or the immediate processing of farm or plantation products.



Figure 20. Jenkins Praise House, St. Helena Island, c. 1900. Site number 182 0031.





Figure 21. Burlington Plantation Indigo Vats, c. 1750. Site number 290 0432.



Three early industrial or processing sites remain in the County. One is an indigo vat (c. 1750, site number 290 0432) located near the Broad River on Port Royal Island (Figure 21). This is a tabby structure with four bays; the two northern bays measure approximately 12x13 feet, while the two southern bays measure approximately 10x12 feet. Each vat is approximately two to three feet deep, and the tabby walls are approximately 19 inches thick. The bays are connected by drains, to allow water to flow from the upper cells into the lower.

The second early manufacturing site is a brickyard located on Port Royal Island (site number 290 0301.08). Close to an arm of Whale Branch, it is located in a rare area where clay is found close to the surface. The brickyard was established before 1750 by Henry Talbird (Talbot), an Irish immigrant who established himself on what became Whale Branch Plantation (part of the modern Clarendon Plantation). According to family history, Talbird, a prosperous planter, “opened a brickyard, which grew to be quite profitable...and had several of his men [slaves] instructed in the trade of brick making.” Talbot is also said to have had the royal contract for building lighthouses in South Carolina and Georgia.<sup>16</sup>

In 1753 the Trustees of Willtown Presbyterian Church (on the South Edisto River in Charleston County, convenient to Whale Branch through the Coosaw River and St. Helena Sound) contracted with Talbert

for as many bricks as shall be wanted for the Parsonage houses, and not to give above 5£ per 1000; and to agree with him for all the Brick Work and Plastering on the said Houses and to split the Laths for Plastering....He will make, burn and deliver 100,000 brick, to be paid 5£ per 1000....cutting the wood and delivering it at the said kiln for burning the said bricks.<sup>17</sup>

Henry Talbird was also involved with the construction of St. Helena’s Church in Beaufort. In 1769 he laid 175,250 bricks for the new building and plastered the interior; in 1772 he plastered the steps and portico. His son, Col. Thomas Talbird, was also a planter and builder who specialized in tabby construction. He built Beaufort’s original Arsenal (1795-1798), made tabby improvements to St. Helena’s Church and grounds, and constructed several Beaufort residences. A third Talbird builder was Franklin, the son of Colonel Thomas Talbird, who built several well-known brick buildings, notably The Oaks plantation and the Brick Church on St. Helena Island. Franklin Talbird does not seem to have used the Talbird kiln on Whale Branch, which may have been inactive after the death of Henry Talbird before 1800.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>16</sup>Henry Talbird, “Talbird Pedigree,” (1888, in Etta C. Foster, “Old Families of Beaufort,” Beaufort Historical Society, 1947).

<sup>17</sup>“Records of the Willtown Presbyterian, 1738-1841,” *South Carolina Historical Magazine* vol. 62

<sup>18</sup>A.S. Salley, ed., *Minutes of the Vestry of St. Helena’s Parish Church*. See also “Additional Talbird Genealogy” in Foster, “Old Families of Beaufort.” Interview, Cynthia Cole Jenkins, Charleston, South Carolina, March 1998.

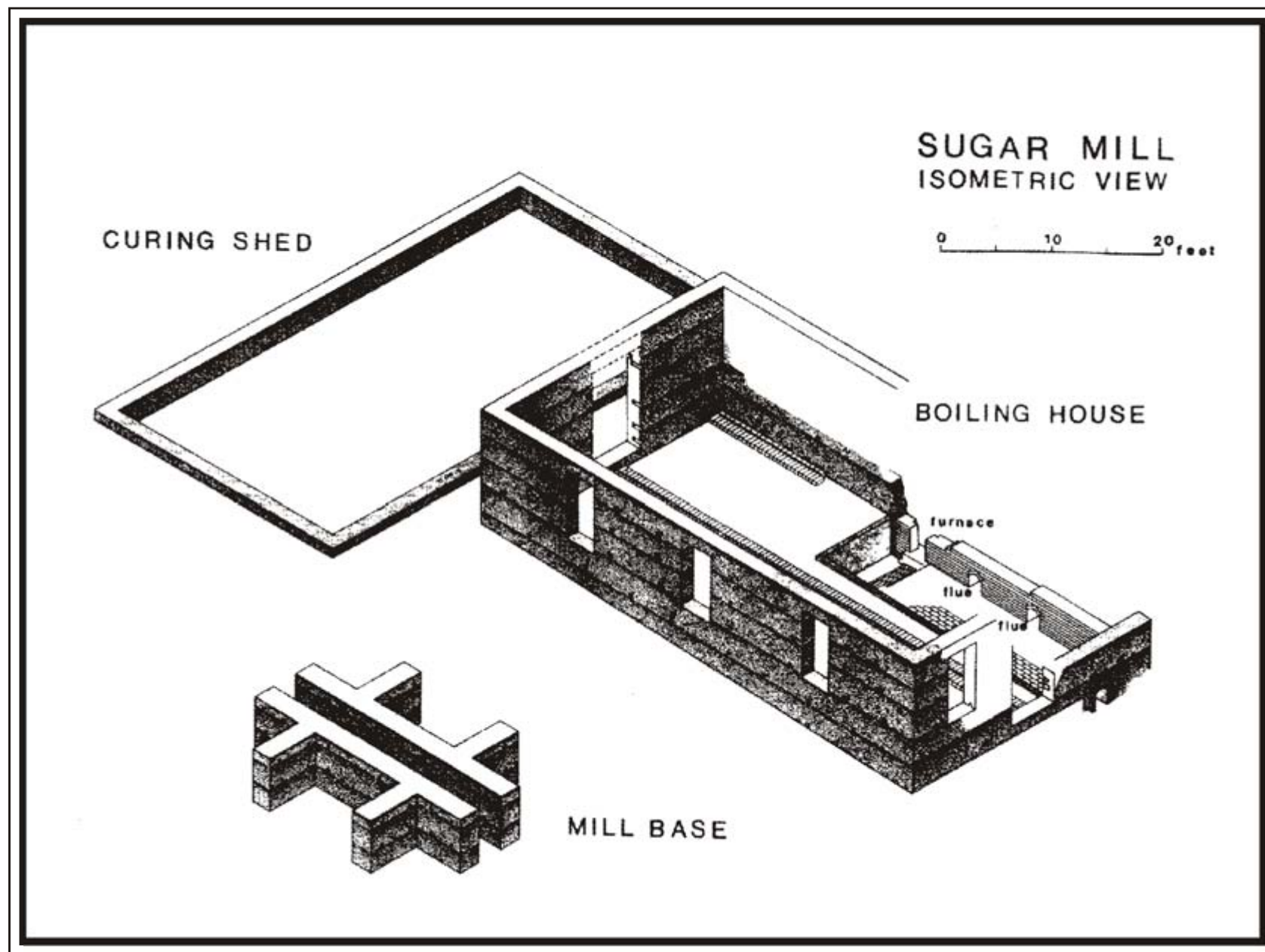


Figure 22. Isometric view of Callawassie Island sugar mill ruins. Site number 487 0313.

The third of Beaufort County's early manufacturing sites is the ruins of a sugar mill located on the northeast side of Callawassie Island (site number 487 0311). This was a complex comprised of three buildings: a curing shed, a boiling house, and a mill (Figure 22); it was part of a larger complex of buildings which included slave houses, outbuildings, and perhaps a large house; the remains of these later buildings survive as archaeological evidence only.

Among the more noteworthy manufacturing enterprises in Beaufort County were the phosphate and fertilizer industries in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. These were very important in helping to stimulate Beaufort County's economy in the years after the Civil War. An important example of a phosphate packing shed can be found near Seabrook (site number 470 0248.07). The packing shed was built for the Brotherhood Phosphate Mining Company in Port Royal in the late nineteenth century. It was purchased by W.H. McLeod in the early twentieth century, who moved it to his truck farming operation at Seabrook. Other than this packing shed, there are few above-ground resources which can be associated with the phosphate industry in Beaufort County. The most dramatic of these is the range of phosphate mining refuse piles near the Coosaw River on Chisolms Island (site number 120 0293). These ridges are approximately ten to fifteen feet high, and run in roughly parallel lines.

The most interesting twentieth century manufacturing site in the County, curiously, never served as a manufacturing plant. The Seacoast Packing Plant (site number 025 0659) was originally conceived as a community economic development project, and was designed principally to provide local farmers with an opportunity to raise cattle as an alternative to the failure of cotton and other crops. The concept was to build the factory through public subscriptions; this was the plan used by many cotton mills in upstate South Carolina during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.<sup>19</sup> Not only did this bring a local community together in an enterprise for the common good, but it also helped to overcome the lack of capital which plagued the southern economy in the years after the Civil War. Construction on the factory building began in 1920, and the Brooks Engineering Company of Moultrie, Georgia, served as the general contractor. The building was constructed using some of the most modern building techniques available at the time. The walls were built of concrete reinforced with steel framing, and its exterior walls featured hollow tile terra cotta blocks. The Southern States Packing and Provision Company was to operate the facility, but funding ran out just prior to completion. The building sat vacant until 1925 and has been used only sporadically since.<sup>20</sup>

The other principal industrial concern in Beaufort County in the twentieth century has been seafood. Beaufort County's waters have proved a rich source of oysters, clams, shrimp, and other types of seafood. The sea islands, particularly Lady's Island and St. Helena Island, were important areas of seafood processing in the twentieth century. Few early sites remain from this important industry, as storms and tides have damaged seafood and dock buildings, while outdated equipment

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<sup>19</sup>See David L. Carlton, *Mill and Town in South Carolina 1880-1920* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1985), for a very valuable description of this process.

<sup>20</sup>Articles from the Beaufort Gazette, 1920-1922; interview with Mills Kinghorn, former owner.

has been sold, replaced, or recycled. Two sites were identified during the survey on St. Helena Island; the buildings are no longer extant, but the docks remain along Doe Point (site number 182 0465) and Club Bridge Creek (site number 445 0377). In addition, the factory site on Lady's Island remains, on Oyster Factory Road; however, no standing structures remain at this site.

### ***Earthworks and Landscape Features***

Beaufort County has long been an intensely agricultural county, and it is a land that has seen an extensive military presence. These two forces have combined to yield a rich variety of historic cultural landscapes and earthwork constructions. Rice was an extremely important crop in Beaufort County throughout the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and as explained in Chapter II, required vast changes to the tidal marshes and rivers. Slaves worked extensively to create and maintain the dams, dikes, canals, and levees that would protect the rice crops and provide for their irrigation. Few of these extensive earthwork projects have survived, however, due to a number of factors. These are inherently fragile constructions, particularly given the constant presence of moving water. Moreover, maintaining them is very expensive and time consuming. Many rice plantations survived the Civil War, but rice has not proved profitable on a large scale since the 1870s. Affordable labor was not available to keep the earthworks intact in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and many have deteriorated extensively. Others have been removed or converted to other purposes such as wildlife conservation areas.

Integrity is therefore an important consideration in assessing the significance of the extant rice fields in Beaufort County, and a moderately wide latitude was given in this survey. Field patterns are crucial, but not to the extent that completely replaced dikes maintaining the field patterns can be considered as a loss of integrity. Because no other resources directly related to the rice industry remain in Beaufort County, it is important that the extant rice fields be documented. This survey of the County's above ground historic resources identified four fields which retain at least fair integrity. Three of these are on the Combahee River (site numbers 551 0183.02, 551 0289.01, and 551 0291.01), and one is near the Pocotaligo River (site number 470 0481.09). In all four of these fields, the field patterns remain largely intact and the canals and dikes remain clear and only moderately altered. Traces of rice fields can be seen in other parts of the County; only in these four, however, could the sense of the original fields be felt.

The other principal landscape feature associated with the plantations was the avenue of live oak trees. These avenues provided a for a formal entrance drive to the plantation. Live oak avenues generally require regular maintenance, however, and when the plantations no longer exist the avenues of live oaks tend to fall into disrepair. Perhaps as a result, many of the extant live oak avenues in Beaufort County are associated with more recent plantations. Six of them are associated with known plantations, at Tomotley (site number 470 0481.10), Belfair (site number 487 0261), Brewton (site number 569 1419.07), Spring Island (site number 487 0313), Clarendon (site number 290 0301), and Coffin Point (site number 442 0351). One lies to the north of US 17 west of Sheldon and has not yet been associated with a plantation (site number 470 0232).

Beaufort County was a crucial area in the Confederate defense in South Carolina and Georgia during the Civil War. The Charleston and Savannah Railroad had only recently been completed when the War broke out, and it was a vital line between the two cities. Union forces made a number of attempts to capture and destroy the railroad as a way to shut off communication and to make more difficult the passage of supplies along the South Carolina coast. Confederate forces, and especially conscripted slaves from nearby plantations, under the leadership of Robert E. Lee, constructed a line of earthwork batteries between Savannah and Charleston. These batteries were positioned between the upper reaches of the tidal rivers and the railroad, out of firing range from boats coming up the rivers. Invading troops would therefore have to come ashore and head over land to approach the railroad from the water side. The batteries were generally constructed in a crescent shape, with the convex side facing the water and the approaching troops.

Five of these batteries remain in Beaufort County, in varying degrees of preservation. There are well defined examples near Stoney Creek (site number 569 0284), Pocotaligo (site number 569 0168), and the Combahee River (site number 551 0303), in which the crescent shape and the moat in front can be easily discerned. Two others near the Whale Branch River (site numbers 470 0415 and 470 0417) have deteriorated to a greater degree, but are still clearly visible as earthenworks.

### *Cemeteries*

Several kinds of cemeteries were surveyed in Beaufort County. Cemeteries or burying grounds are landscape features that can include a variety of planned or unplanned landscape features such as fencing, walkways, drives, and vegetation, along with the obvious above-ground elements of markers, tombs, and vaults. When a cemetery retains little evidence in the way of markers or even depressions, it may still be significant as a traditional cultural property or a potential archaeological site.

Churchyard cemeteries are adjacent to a church building, usually to the rear and one or both sides. The material, type, and design quality indicates something about the disposable wealth of the congregants; inscriptions are valuable to genealogists; and epitaphs and design motifs provide insight into changing modes of religious and artistic thought. Good examples of churchyard cemeteries are at St. Helena's Church (site number 025 1104), a wealthy urban churchyard in continuous use since the eighteenth century; Prince William's (Old Sheldon) Church (site number 470 0049), a burial site for wealthy early planters that is no longer used; and Mt. Carmel Baptist Church (site number 120 0140), a freedmen's church established c. 1885. Although Mt. Carmel Baptist Church has been rebuilt, the cemetery remains in use, and the increasing size and quality of newer markers testifies to the development of disposable income among rural families.

For two reasons, impressive markers and personal prominence, the knowledge of the locations of plantation or family cemeteries has most often been preserved when the remains are of the planter class. Several planters' cemeteries were surveyed, including the McPherson Cemetery on Brewton Plantation (site number 569 1419.06), which is enclosed within a brick wall, and the

Talbird-Rhodes Cemetery on Clarendon Plantation (site number 290 0301), which was historically unfenced. Both have a mix of above-ground brick vaults with tabletop slabs, upright markers, and obelisk markers. Many of the stones are signed by Charleston carvers such as White or Walker.

Every working plantation had a slave population, many of whom were buried on the property. Much less information is available about their burial sites than about the cemeteries of the planter class. At least two cemeteries still in use on the present Clarendon Plantation are thought to have begun as slave cemeteries. Both are characterized by number depressions and very few purchased markers. Hand made markers of wood or cement may date as late as the 1930s.

### ***Farm Buildings***

Historic farm buildings are not common in Beaufort County. They have remained intact largely as parts of plantation complexes. Indeed, of the twelve barns identified in this survey, only two, both dating to the 1930s, have not been connected to independent plantations. Most of the barns identified in this survey have been frame buildings with weatherboard siding, and with a gable roof; no gambrel roof barns were discovered. The most striking barn was found at Frogmore Manor (site number 445 0026.01). This building, which was constructed in approximately 1835, features a tabby foundation and walls covered in weatherboard siding. Its plan includes a central aisle with four stalls on one side. This makes for a good contrast to the plan of a barn near Sheldon (site number 470 0234), which was built in the 1930s. This frame barn has a side gable roof covering a dog-trot plan, in which two pens are separated by a central passageway. This passageway is less an aisle than an opening separating two distinct units.

Other turn of the century frame barns have been identified at the Seabrook truck farming community, Tomotley Plantation, Brays Island Plantation, and Twickenham Plantation. Other farm buildings have included sheds, silos, and pump houses.

### ***Miscellaneous Resources***

This survey has identified a wide range of above-ground historic resources in addition to the principal types described above. Most of these resources resist categorization. These include resources such as historic roadways and causeways, office buildings, and a warehouse. It is possible to discern one category, however, which can include a number of these miscellaneous resources. Improved roads and forms of communication and transportation have given an increased prominence in recent decades on the principal towns of the County, including the City of Beaufort, the Town of Port Royal, and the Town of Bluffton. Through the early years of the twentieth century, however, perhaps as late as WWII, Beaufort County was characterized by a wide scattering of small yet vital communities. Place names such as Sheldon, Dale, Lobeco, Gardens Corner, Seabrook, Burton, Pritchardville, and others have been relegated to secondary status as most commercial, social, and political activities have gone to the larger communities. Many buildings and other resources remain

to remind the passerby of these once-thriving communities. The combined store and post office in Dale (site number 120 0144), the Knights of the Wise Men Lodge Hall in St. Helena Island's Corner Community (site number 182 0470), the picnic area and dance hall on St. Helena Island (site number 182 0468), the post office in Pritchardville (411 0452.01), the School at Lobeco (c. 1925; site number 120 0159), and countless cemeteries scattered throughout the County tell of communities and social gathering places which live on but in vastly altered form.

## **Chapter IV: Inventory of Above-Ground Historic Resources**

The following inventory list is the result of the survey of above-ground historic resources conducted for this report between February 1997 and February 1998. This list is sorted by USGS quadrangle maps, and provides information on the site number, address or location, historic name, property type, and construction date. More detailed information can be found on the survey cards which have been completed for each site. These cards are on file at the State Historic Preservation Office in Columbia and at the Beaufort County Preservation Planning Office in Beaufort.

### ***Data Gaps***

Every reasonable effort was made to gain access to private lands and plantations. This included correspondence by letter and telephone. Most landowners and managers were quite generous in permitting access. In rare occasions the consultants were not able to secure access. The following properties were not surveyed, and are considered as data gaps: Bindon Plantation, Bonny Hall, Cotton Hall Plantation, Coosaw Plantation, Hobonny Plantation, Nieuport Plantation, and Wimbee Creek Farm.



## Chapter V: Evaluations

This survey of above-ground historic resources in Beaufort County has identified 1468 sites. Of these, the majority (61 percent) were surveyed at a reconnaissance level. These properties were located on county tax maps, assigned a discrete site number, photographed with black and white film, and had information regarding estimated date of construction, and general condition and integrity recorded for them. This is the extent of the documentation that these properties will receive.

The remaining properties were surveyed at an intensive level. In addition to the basic information gathered at the reconnaissance level, a statewide architectural survey form was completed for these properties. This involves a higher level of description as well as some historical information. The surveyors made recommendations for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) from among these properties. These recommendations were submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in the South Carolina Department of Archives and History for consideration. SHPO staff then made determinations of eligibility regarding these properties. Their determinations are included later in this chapter.

### *Properties Listed on the NRHP in Beaufort County*

Beaufort County already has many properties listed on the NRHP, both as individual properties and as districts. Table 11 lists these properties and the dates they were entered on the NRHP.

Table 11. Properties Listed on the NRHP in Beaufort County

Property Name	Date Listed
Beaufort Historic District (NHL)	12/17/69; NHL 11/7/73
Hunting Island State Park Lighthouse	6/5/70
Chester Field	10/15/70
Sea Pines	10/15/70
Sheldon Church Ruins	10/22/70
Skull Creek	11/10/70
William Barnwell House	3/24/71
Tabby Manse (Thomas Fuller House)	5/14/71
John Mark Verdier House	8/19/71
The Anchorage (William Elliott House)	11/23/71
John A. Cuthbert House	6/13/72
Barnwell-Gough House (Old Barnwell House)	11/15/72
Hasell Point Site	8/14/73
Little Barnwell Island	8/14/73
Indian Hill Site	3/22/74

Table 11. Properties Listed on the NRHP in Beaufort County

<b>Property Name</b>	<b>Date Listed</b>
Marshlands (James Ross Verdier House) (NHL)	11/7/73
Robert Smalls House (NHL)	5/30/74
Green's Shell Enclosure	8/7/74
Charles Forte	8/7/74
Penn Center Historic District (NHL)	9/9/74; NHL 12/2/74
Fort Frederick	12/31/74
Church of the Cross	5/29/75
Coffin Point Plantation	8/28/75
Tombee Plantation	9/18/75
Auldbrass	6/3/76
Parris Island Drydock & Commanding General's House	11/21/78
Seaside Plantation (Edgar Fripp Plantation)	7/16/79
Fort Lyttleton Site	9/13/79
Daufuskie Island Historic District	6/2/82
Rose Hill Plantation House	5/19/83
Rear Lighthouse of Hilton Head Range Light Station	12/12/85
St. Luke's Church	11/10/87
Fish Haul Archaeological Site	6/30/88
Emanuel Alston House (St. Helena Island Multiple Property Submission [MPS])	10/6/88
Dr. York Bailey House (St. Helena Island MPS)	10/6/88
The Corner Packing Shed (St. Helena Island MPS)	10/6/88
The Corner Store and Office (St. Helena Island MPS)	10/6/88
Edgar Fripp Mausoleum (St. Helena Island MPS)	10/6/88
Isaac Fripp House Ruins (St. Helena Island MPS)	10/6/88
The Green (St. Helena Island MPS)	10/6/88
Lands End Road Tabby Ruins (St. Helena Island MPS)	10/6/88
The Oaks (St. Helena Island MPS)	10/6/88
Riverside Plantation Tabby Ruins (St. Helena Island MPS)	10/6/88
Robert Simmons House (St. Helena Island MPS)	10/6/88
St. Helena Parish Chapel of Ease Ruins (St. Helena Island MPS)	10/6/88
St. Helenaville Archaeological Site (St. Helena Island MPS)	10/6/88
Eddings Point Community Praise House (St. Helena Island MPS)	5/19/89
Mary Jenkins Community Praise House (St. Helena Island MPS)	5/19/89
Coffin Point Plantation Caretaker's House (St. Helena Island MPS)	5/26/89
Fort Fremont Hospital (St. Helena Island MPS)	5/26/89
Frogmore Plantation Complex (St. Helena Island MPS)	5/26/89
Orange Grove Plantation (St. Helena Island MPS)	5/26/89
Pine Island Plantation Complex (St. Helena Island MPS)	5/26/89
Altamaha Town	1/21/94
Pocosabo Town	1/21/94

Table 11. Properties Listed on the NRHP in Beaufort County

Property Name	Date Listed
Stoney-Baynard Plantation	2/23/94
Camp Saxton Site	2/2/95
McLeod Farmstead Historic District	1997
S.S. Lawrence Shipwreck	1998

The remainder of this chapter is comprised of the report of the SHPO regarding determinations of eligibility for properties surveyed during this project.

### ***Properties Determined Eligible for Listing in the National Register of Historic Places***

The following determinations are based on evaluations of the Beaufort County Survey by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) of the S.C. Department of Archives and History. It is the opinion of the SHPO that the properties meet, with the exception of those found worthy of further investigation, the eligibility criteria for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. These determinations are based on the present architectural integrity and available historical information for the properties included in the Beaufort County Survey. Properties may be removed from or added to this list if changes are made that affect a property's physical integrity. Historical information that is brought to the attention of the National Register Specialist confirming or denying a property's historic significance may also affect a property's eligibility status. The process of identifying and evaluating historic properties is never complete. The SHPO encourages readers of this report to alert the National Register Specialist to properties that may have been omitted during this evaluation.

Initial National Register determinations of eligibility were made on October 7, 1997, by SHPO staff Andrew W. Chandler and Mary R. Parramore, in consultation with Beaufort County planning staff person Ian Hill; City of Beaufort planning staff person Lena Cofresi; Bruce Harvey and Eric Poplin of Brockington and Associates, Inc.; David Schneider, Director of Historic Beaufort Foundation; Colin Brooker of Brooker Architectural Design; and Sarah Fick of Preservation Consultants, Inc. Final determinations were made during and following a field visit to Beaufort County on March 3, 1998, by Andrew W. Chandler and Mary R. Parramore, in consultation with Ian Hill, Bruce Harvey, and David Schneider, and based partially upon the findings and recommendations of both Lena Cofresi and Sarah Fick.

### ***Properties Eligible for Individual Listing in the National Register***

The SHPO considers the following properties to be eligible for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The Beaufort County Survey site number and the historic or common name, if known, are given along with the National Register Criteria for Evaluation

(Criterion A, B, C, or D) and/or Criteria Considerations/Exceptions (indicated with lower case letters "a - g" and providing property type) under which the property qualifies.

<b><u>Site #</u></b>	<b><u>Name of Property</u></b>	<b><u>Criteria/Area of Signif.</u></b>
025-0426	Lady's Island Baptist Church	C - Architecture cc - a [religious property]
025-0621	Retreat Plantation [boundaries include main house and view shed along marsh and creek, using property line, marsh, and Pinckney Retreat Road]	C - Architecture
025-0622	First Jericho Baptist Church [determined eligible by SHPO 4/21/97]	C - Architecture cc - a [religious property]
025-0623	Myrtle Bush Plantation [boundaries include current parcel comprised of main house, as well as Old Jericho Road along edge of property]	A - Agriculture C - Architecture
025-0627	Pickpocket Plantation [boundaries include main house and complete parcel]	A - Agriculture
025-0659	Seacoast Packing Company	A - Industry
046-0241	Lightsey Cottage	C - Architecture
120-0159	Lobeco School & Gymnatorium	C - Architecture
182-0468	Eddings Point Community Center [boundaries include community building, ball field, and beach]	A - Ethnic Heritage: Black; Recreation
251-0427	Monkey Farm [boundaries based on site plan; main house and caretaker's house are noncontributing]	A - Science and Technology; Health and Medicine
290-0301.00 thru .03	Clarendon Plantation [boundaries include main house, formal garden, oak avenue, and dairy]	A -Entertainment/ Recreation; C - Architecture

<u>Site #</u>	<u>Name of Property</u>	<u>Criteria/Area of Signif.</u>
290-0421	Benton-Fripp Plantation	C-Architecture
290-0432	Burlington Plantation Indigo Vats	A - Agriculture D - Archaeology
389-0510	F. W. Scheper Store, Port Royal [see entry below about multiple property submission for Port Royal]	A - Commerce C - Architecture
470-0290	Brays Island [boundaries include house to waterfront, stable complex, and connecting road]	C - Architecture
470-0481	Tomotley Plantation Site [boundaries include oak allee, rice fields, barns. Potential for archaeological remains - explore Criterion D. House is noncontributing to the complex.]	A - Agriculture C - Engineering, Landscape Architecture
487-0311	Callawassie Island Sugar Works	A - Agriculture, Industry
487-1415	Edwards House Complex, Spring Island [at least in part determined eligible 9/1990; boundaries include tabby ruins of main house, south and north pavilions, and service building, as well as oak avenue]	C - Architecture D - Archaeology
569-0482	Twickenham [boundaries include main house (ca. 1878), an early 20th century garage and stable and possibly other resources associated with hunting plantation]	A - Recreation C - Architecture
569-1423.00 thru .06	Castle Hill Plantation [boundaries include main house, a small frame dwelling, a garage, three barns, and a tenant house]	A - Recreation C - Architecture

***Addendum to Existing National Register Listings***

441-0351 Coffin Point Plantation Oak Allee to Coffin Point Plantation listing

***Multiple Property Submissions***

The following properties may be grouped in a thematic nomination of Civil War Fortifications in the Beaufort vicinity; each would be nominated individually but with a developed context:

<b><u>Site #</u></b>	<b><u>Name of Property</u></b>
025-0644	Battery Saxton
551-0303	Clay Hall Battery
569-0168	Unnamed Battery
569-0284	Stoney Creek Battery [determined eligible by SHPO in 1993]

The following properties may be nominated individually as part of a multiple property submission for Port Royal, South Carolina:

<b><u>Site #</u></b>	<b><u>Name of Property</u></b>
025-0536	Kirkland's Boarding House - 1102 11th Street, corner of Madrid Street
025-0539	Union Church [Port Royal Playhouse] - 1004 11th Street, between Paris Ave. and Madrid Street
025-0557	Frame Residence - 1138 13th Street, corner of Columbia Ave.
389-0507	James Leith Paul House, 902 7th Street, corner of London Ave.
389-0510	F.W. Scheper Store - 918 8th Street, corner of Paris Ave. [see above]

Others may qualify for nomination if found to be intact and possessing significance upon completion of a historic context for Port Royal.

Because there is such a prevalence of tabby-constructed resources (both intact and in ruins) in Beaufort County, a multiple property submission (thematic) for tabby is recommended. This nomination would include all properties containing significant tabby elements that are either already listed in or determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

### ***Properties Worthy of Further Investigation***

The following list includes historic properties that are worthy of further investigation. Additional information about these properties may qualify or disqualify them for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. We encourage property owners or interested citizens to contact the National Register staff at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History with additional information that may be helpful in making determinations.

<b><u>Site #</u></b>	<b><u>Name of Property</u></b>
025-0579	Commander F. P. Field House - context needs development; is asbestos shingle siding original?
025-0648	Wood-Lawn Subdivision - Upon making site visit on March 3, 1998, integrity seems good; however, connection between it and significance of World War II build-up in Beaufort and the development of the suburb needs to be made.
470-0288	Gardens Corner Motel - Association with the development of the Coastal Highway (U.S. Hwy. 17) needs to be developed thoroughly. Presently less than fifty years old, but likely to be eligible for National Register when old enough under Criterion A for Transportation and Recreation.
569-1419.06 and 1419.07	McPherson-Izard Cemetery, and Oak Avenue, Brewton Plantation - Condition and significance of cemetery and 1933 oak avenue needs to be established.

***Other Properties in Beaufort County Previously Determined Eligible and Not Necessarily Included in above Determinations:***

<b><u>Site #</u></b>	<b><u>Name of Property</u></b>
025-133	Melrose Plantation, Lady's Island, by SHPO, 4/2/91
182-15	Croft Community Praise House, St. Helena Island, by Keeper due to owner objection, 5/26/89
025-1403	Beaufort National Cemetery - determined eligible by the Keeper through 106 Review and Compliance Process, as early as 1978; listed on October 10,1997.
182-0046	Sams Tabby Complex, Datha Island, by the Keeper due to owner objection, 10/6/88
389-21	Fort Fremont Battery, St. Helena Island, by Keeper due to owner objection, 5/26/89
442-480	Coffin Point Community Praise House, St. Helena Island, by the Keeper due to owner objection, 5/26/89



## **Chapter VI: Recommendations**

Beaufort County has already seen extensive development, especially in the southern areas closer to the ocean. The sea islands have been a particular focus for development. These areas have been favorites to build upon from the earliest settlement of the area before it was Beaufort County. Their continuing allure has captivated untold thousands of people wishing to live by the sea. This lure of the sea islands is based deep in history; it cannot nor should it necessarily be turned around in its entirety. However, wise development draws upon a full awareness of all of the resources of a community or an area. Environmental, above-ground historical, and archaeological resources should all be brought into consideration when developments are proposed.

There are development pressures throughout the County, to varying degrees and coming from a variety of quarters. Housing developments on the way or proposed in the central and northern parts of the County, for example, will have an impact on cultural resources which needs to be taken into consideration. They will also increase traffic, and new or newly widened roads have a great potential to have an adverse effect on cultural resources. Again, these developments are not necessarily to be stopped. Officials in Beaufort County and the towns and cities in the County, however, should be aware of the cultural resources under their care, the potential threats to these resources, and their value to the County and the region as a whole. Preservation and development, when carefully balanced, are potential partners with a shared goal.

Threats to cultural resources do not come from development alone. This survey identified many buildings that were either abandoned and deteriorated or had been altered so extensively as no longer to be eligible for survey. Individual owners of historic properties need to be aware of the value of these historic buildings. There are times when it is not economically feasible or responsible to pay for the maintenance or repair of a historic building. This is an unfortunate fact which must be taken into account when planning for historic preservation. When funds are available for maintenance or restoration, however, property owners should be aware that there are ways of carrying out this work in a way which is sensitive to the historic fabric and appearance of the building. A variety of agencies and individuals are capable of advising on the proper methods of treatment for historic properties, including the Beaufort County Preservation Planning Office, the Historic Beaufort Foundation, and the State Historic Preservation Office.

Guidelines and methods for preservation are of particular pertinence to the guardians of the County's historic properties. Many properties have already been listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and there are NRHP historic districts on St. Helena and Daufuskie islands and the Town of Bluffton, and National Historic Landmark (NHL) districts in the City of Beaufort and at Penn Center on St. Helena Island. This survey also evaluated other areas in the Town of Port Royal, the City of Beaufort, and Beaufort County's rural areas for potential districts and individual properties for their eligibility for the NRHP or for local designation. The individual properties that have been determined eligible for the NRHP by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) have been included in Chapter V.

In addition to recommendations for NRHP eligibility, which are detailed in Chapter V above,, the consultants developed a broader set of recommendations. These are both planning recommendations and suggestions for further research and documentation.

### **Recommendation 1: Local Landmark and Historic District Designation**

In the course of the survey the consultants identified many buildings and districts which are important for their local associations. While important in the context of the County, these buildings and districts lack either the integrity or the significance to be eligible for the NRHP. They are worthy of being preserved, even though they fall outside the purview of the NRHP.

The consultants therefore recommend that Beaufort County should develop a system of designating local historic districts and landmarks. Designated landmarks should include properties already listed in or determined eligible for the NRHP, and also communities, districts, and individual properties that are not eligible for the NRHP but which are significant within the context of Beaufort County's local history.

In addition to the list of properties listed in or determined eligible for the NRHP given in Chapter V, the following buildings and districts are recommended as candidates for local landmark designation in the rural areas of the County.

#### *Individual Sites*

- \*Belfair Plantation Oak Avenue (site number 487 0261)
- \*Secession Oak (site number 046 0227)
- \*The Combahee River
- \*Barrel Landing School (site number 251 0443)
- \*Combahee River Salt Dam (site number 120 0285)
- \*Dale Post Office (site number 120 0144)

#### *Districts*

- \*The Corners Community on St. Helena Island
- \*Old Sheldon Church Road
- \*River Road (SC 33) from the Town of Yemassee to the bend at Bonny Hall
- \*Witsell Road, the entire length on Chisolm Island
- \*Bluffton's beach communities
- \*Potato Island Monastery (site number 046 0370)
- \*Camp St. Mary's (site number 251 0362)

Areas in the urban portions of the county require separate consideration, and are detailed below.

### *Town of Port Royal*

The Town of Port Royal retains a concentration of historic buildings dating primarily from the late nineteenth to the early twentieth centuries. As one of Port Royal Island's two urban centers, along with the City of Beaufort, the Town of Port Royal has a rich history which is reflected in its built environment. Despite this, the town, as it developed after the Civil War, was never densely settled or built. The result, as seen on early twentieth century Sanborn maps, was a loose and somewhat sparse development pattern that had a small core of commercial and residential buildings at its southern end. This pattern remains in evidence today and many of the buildings shown on the early Sanborn Maps remain. Unfortunately, modern development has filled in many of the formerly empty areas of the town, compromising its overall integrity and National Register potential. In addition, a number of resources have been insensitively rehabilitated, further eroding the town's overall historic character.

### *City of Beaufort*

The consultants evaluated three primary areas in the City of Beaufort for possible local historic designation: 1) the area between the existing National Historic Landmark District and Ribault Road, 2) the Ribault Road corridor, 3) neighborhoods to the west of Ribault Road, and 4) Woods Memorial Bridge.

The area between the existing NHL district and Ribault Road retains a number of typically small scale residences constructed in the early to mid twentieth century. The Bay Street thoroughfare is lined with more substantial dwellings built between circa 1930 and 1960. North Street retains the highest concentration of intact resources. While its character is certainly similar and contributing to the adjacent district, the consultants determined that its linear boundary would not be justifiable as a possible expansion of the district. The streets to the north of North Street have much less integrity and a greater degree of noncontributing infill.

The Ribault Road corridor retains a notable concentration of pre-1950 resources. The surveyed properties on the east side of the street, south of Bay Street, tend to face the Beaufort bay and retain medium scale dwellings, dating from the late 1800s to 1950. Most are placed close to the water with deep landscaped yards extending to Ribault Road. The properties on the west side of the road and those on the east side north of Bay Street typically retain smaller scale dwellings dating from the late nineteenth to mid-twentieth centuries surrounded by mature landscaping. Ribault Road, while a major four-lane artery, retains a substantial live oak canopy and, when coupled with the heavily landscaped properties to either side, presents a significant scenic corridor.

The areas to the west of Ribault Road contain numerous resources constructed in the 1940 to 1950 period. Many of these houses were built as housing during World War II to accommodate Beaufort's increased population resulting from activity at local military installations. Among the most notable of these is the Wood-Lawn Subdivision (site number 025-0648). The development

known as Wood-Land Subdivision was platted in May 1943 by the Beaufort Housing Corp. and contains 507 small cottages built between 1943 and 1945.

The present Lady's Island, or Woods Memorial, Bridge (site number 025 1402) was constructed in 1959 to replace an earlier, and similar, swing bridge that had been erected in 1925-1926. A swing span, Pratt through-truss type with rigid joints, it spans 248 feet. It was erected by the Diamond Construction Co. One of only six documented swing bridges across the Intracoastal Waterway in South Carolina, the Lady's Island Bridge contributes to the visual association of the Beaufort Historic District as a waterfront community. While the bridge is outside the period of significance of the NHL district, it is a recognizable local landmark and it is considered locally important. It is therefore recommended as a candidate for local designation.

## **Recommendation 2: Organizational Advocacy and Education**

While county, state, and Federal ordinances and regulations will help protect Beaufort County's extant historic resources, many resources are damaged by means which are not subject to these ordinances and regulations. Private landowners need to be made aware of the value of historic properties to the County. Threats to historic properties come as much from neglect, demolition, and insensitive rehabilitation by individual owners as from public road and construction projects. Public education is thus an important tool in encouraging prudent and informed decisions regarding cultural resources in the County.

A number of historical societies and preservation or conservation organizations are active in Beaufort County. These include the Beaufort County Open Land Trust, the Bluffton Historical Preservation Society, Environmental and Historical Museum of Hilton Head Island, Historic Beaufort Foundation, Historic Port Royal Foundation, and Penn Center. While all of these organizations take an interest in historic preservation in rural Beaufort County, each is sometimes limited by its particular geographic area of interest. While the Historic Beaufort Foundation acts on a county-wide basis, it would be helpful to begin a consortium of existing groups, on the lines of the state Confederation of Local Historical Societies. The consultants recommend that the County government consider staffing or coordinating the organization for a startup period, no more than two years.

A county-wide preservation organization could provide effective responses to broad issues. Essentially independent from county and town governments, it would be the appropriate body to manage the placement of historic markers, the designation of local landmarks, the nomination of properties to the NRHP, and the publication of survey products. It could also enhance the efforts of local historical societies by serving as a coordinating or umbrella organization.

### **Recommendation 3: Pigeon Point Review**

The Pigeon Point area, including Pigeon Point itself and the unnamed neighborhood directly to the west, presented a difficult survey challenge given the cutoff date of 1950. Much of this neighborhood, which is roughly bounded by Boundary Street to the south, Sycamore Street to the west, and the Beaufort River to the north and east, was intensively developed between about 1947 and 1955. This necessitated site-specific research on many properties to determine whether each house was completed before or after 1950. Both deed records and property tax records were consulted, as was a 1951 aerial photograph showing the neighborhood. The results of the research were inconclusive for many of the properties in the neighborhood. In addition, many of the houses were relatively plain houses typical of the post-war period and a majority of them had suffered from some degree of alteration. As a result, the field survey for this project generally included all resources which were documented as being constructed before 1950s and that retained sufficient integrity to warrant documentation. In addition, a representative sample of the character of the overall neighborhood was documented through sites 025 1362 through 025 1386, which appear to represent a single subdivision constructed in the 1947 to 1955 period.

It is recommended that a more comprehensive inventory and evaluation of the Pigeon Point area be conducted in the near future. Such a study should extend the date cutoff to perhaps 1955 or 1960. While the results will not immediately suggest an area eligible for National Register or local designation, it will document an important part of the history of the post-World War II development of the City of Beaufort. The city could subsequently take steps to promote the character of the neighborhood and to encourage sensitive rehabilitation of its resources. If such efforts were successful, evaluation of the neighborhood ten or twenty years from now might indicate its eligibility for further designation.

### **Recommendation 4: Port Royal Thematic Nomination**

A potential local historic district has been identified that incorporates most of the surviving historic resources in the core area of the Town of Port Royal. It is recommended that the Town of Port Royal, the Historic Port Royal Foundation, and the Historic Beaufort Foundation work cooperatively to explore the possibility of some form of local designation or recognition for this district.

### **Recommendation 5: Reevaluation of the Beaufort National Historic Landmark District**

One of the important observations gained from this survey regarding the Beaufort National Historic Landmark (NHL) district is the need to reevaluate the history and significance of the district in light of two underlying issues: 1) the level of documentation upon which the designation was originally based and 2) the degree to which the district has changed since the first survey was completed in 1968 (upon which the original National Register district was based, as was the NHL

designation). The comments that follow should not minimize the substantial efforts made by the city, volunteers, and Historic Beaufort Foundation in the preparation of the original 1968 survey, the National Register nomination, and subsequent activities. Rather, what is presented here is based upon a professional review of what has previously occurred and the conditions that now exist.

The concerns about the level and quality of documentation are described more fully below. It is essential to recognize that the National Register program has evolved during the past thirty years. The level of documentation required at the time of the creation of the Beaufort Historic District was less thorough than that required today. Further, the National Register has more fully developed methodologies for including less tangible aspects of the cultural significance of historic resources. The National Park Service's acceptance of "traditional cultural properties" for inclusion onto the National Register is an example of this that may have applicability to the Beaufort historic district.<sup>1</sup>

The latter point becomes apparent when one compares the present survey to those done in 1968 and 1979. The earlier surveys covered approximately 165 and 298 of the sites covered by this survey (respectively). It is useful to note that the present inventory of 437 contributing resources represents approximately one-half of the total number of buildings within the district. Of the resources documented in the 1968 and 1979 surveys, more than fifty have been lost and a number of additional resources have been altered to a degree that they no longer contribute to the district. These numbers primarily reflect conditions primarily outside the Northwest Quadrant neighborhood, which was largely ignored in the earlier surveys. Comparison of maps in the Northwest Quadrant neighborhood suggests that as many as one-third of the buildings shown in 1968 are gone. While we have little information about the nature of those buildings, we can be sure that at least some of them contributed to the district.

The available information remains inadequate. One of the issues to be raised by this survey concerns the level and accuracy of the existing historical record of Beaufort's architectural development. Through the process of gathering information for individual site forms, shortcomings in many of the previously-published histories of Beaufort's buildings became apparent. In several cases, detailed published accounts were refuted by documentary evidence. Therefore, the consultants were particularly conservative in their use of these sources. As a general rule, the site forms for this project include information for which there was primary source documentation. In cases where previously published information was used, an attempt was made to indicate on the site form that the information was unverified, but information was used where it seemed reasonable given other evidence.

The assessment of the significance of a historic resource or district cannot be made without documented historic research. Yet this is precisely the problem much of Beaufort's NHL district faces. Appropriately documented research is available for only a very small percentage of buildings

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<sup>1</sup>Patricia L. Parker and Thomas F. King, *National Register Bulletin 38: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Traditional Cultural Properties* (Department of the Interior, National Park Service, n.d.).

in the district. It is essential that professional site-specific research be conducted for Beaufort's historic resources. Priority should be given to principal character-defining structures and those that are representative of significant historical or architectural trends. This is in addition to the overall historical context documentation previously described.

To summarize, the district has witnessed sufficient change to warrant a fresh evaluation. The consultants fully believe that the district as it now exists remains eligible for its National Historic Landmark designation. Still, it is essential that a more fully developed understanding of the district's history and significance be a major priority for community preservation planning priority. This information should be placed at an appropriate public repository, such as the Beaufort County Public Library or the Beaufort County Preservation Planning Office.

### **Recommendation 6: Documentation of Beaufort's African-American Community**

One of the principal character-defining aspects of the Beaufort National Historic Landmark District is the role its African-American population has played in the historical development of the community. Prior to the Civil War, the majority of the county's blacks were slaves. In this capacity, they were directly involved in the economic development of the area and provided much of the construction labor. A free-black population is known to have existed, but its size and contributions are undocumented. Due to its early occupation by Union forces during the Civil War, Beaufort was unique among southern cities. The refugee population of former sea island slaves undoubtedly grew within the city and the circumstances of the community's free-black population may have changed. The extent to which either of these occurred has not been documented. After the war, African-Americans dominated Beaufort's population numerically and may well have been responsible for the construction of the majority of buildings built in the 1865 to 1900 period. This is certainly true within the Northwest Quadrant neighborhood, where the vast majority of the buildings were built by and for African-Americans.

Despite the overwhelming importance of African-Americans to Beaufort's historical development, very little documentation about their contribution to the Beaufort NHL district is available. The consultants gathered as much as possible for inclusion onto individual site forms.

### **Recommendation 7: Tabby Resources**

Tabby is a building material that was used extensively along the coastal areas of the southern United States from the early 1700s through circa 1860. Tabby foundations, ruins, fortifications, and standing buildings are scattered throughout Beaufort County. The material has significance as a historic cultural artifact on the local, regional, and national level. As a primary focus for tabby's development after the American Revolution, Beaufort County retains the most extensive, diverse, and significant collection of tabby resources in the United States.

The documentation of tabby resources in Beaufort County has been relatively minimal. While several individual sites have been professionally documented, and many more have been identified, the full scope of the county's surviving tabby is unknown. During this survey, at least three previously undocumented tabby resources were identified. Two of these were simple foundations, yet the third, an intact indigo vat, represents one of the most significant cultural resource "finds" in recent years. The consultants therefore recommend the systematic identification, documentation, and conservation of Beaufort County's tabby in preparation of a multiple properties submission for the NRHP.

### **Recommendation 8: Publications**

Historical societies in Beaufort and Bluffton have a tradition of publishing works of local history and architecture. A variety of publications have treated historic sites in the County, notably the antebellum plantations. The only comprehensive architectural study for the County as a whole is Cynthia Cole's *Historic Resources of the Lowcountry*, published by the Lowcountry Council of Governments. While this is an excellent work, the study and the photos on which it was first based are now more than twenty years old, and a great deal has happened to historic buildings and sites in Beaufort County in the last twenty years. The present survey information and photographs should encourage an updated publication about Beaufort County's architectural and community heritage after the completion of more documentary research.

### **Recommendation 9: Mid-20th Century Buildings**

Historic preservation efforts in Beaufort have concentrated primarily on the county's antebellum and Reconstruction-era resources. While the period of significance for Beaufort district's National Historic Landmark district has been formally expanded to 1935, little attention has been focused on post-1900 resources. Furthermore, research for this project indicates that the build-up of local military facilities for World War II and the subsequent retirement of former military personnel to Beaufort County were important trends in the county's historical development and are worthy of further investigation. Physical resources from the period from 1935 through 1955 that illustrate these later historical patterns include residential subdivisions (such as Wood-Lawn), apartments, and commercial buildings.

One frustrating experience of the survey has been the recognition that buildings from the period of 1935 through 1955 have been largely disregarded and many have already been lost to demolition or alteration. It is essential that steps be taken to document and evaluate the significance and contribution that surviving resources from this period make to the County's historic character.



## **Recommendation 10: Archaeological Resources**

The Beaufort County Planning Department reviews proposed developments for impacts to cultural resources. This review currently focuses primarily on archaeological resources. A large number of archaeological surveys and data recovery projects have been conducted throughout the County, and this information provides a valuable database that can be used in reviewing proposed developments. The current survey provides the first comprehensive review of above-ground resources in Beaufort County. The results of this survey are being integrated into the county's Geographic Information System (GIS) which will allow for the precise location and identification of historic sites. The inventory of historic sites compiled for this report should be consulted in conjunction with the Beaufort County GIS to determine the location and significance of historic sites which will be potentially impacted by proposed development activities.

While archaeological resources are specifically protected by this countywide regulation, this protection does not extend to the City of Beaufort, the Town of Port Royal, the Town of Hilton Head Island, or the Town of Bluffton. Because of the long history of human activity within the urbanized areas of the county, it should be recognized that every parcel potentially retains archaeological resources. These resources should be respected to the greatest extent possible in any activity that might disturb their integrity. The City of Beaufort, Town of Port Royal, Town of Bluffton, Historic Beaufort Foundation, and Historic Port Royal Foundation should aggressively promote professional archeological investigation of properties within their jurisdictions that are subject to pending development. These entities should assist in the identification and funding of potential projects, facilitate their implementation, and promote their results to the public. The City of Beaufort, Town of Port Royal, and Town of Bluffton should consider the adoption of an archaeological preservation ordinance similar to that of Beaufort County.

**PROPERTIES DETERMINED ELIGIBLE FOR LISTING IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

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**PROPERTIES ELIGIBLE FOR INDIVIDUAL LISTING IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

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<b><u>Site #</u></b>	<b><u>Name of Property</u></b>	<b><u>Criteria/Area of Signif.</u></b>
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<u>Site #</u>	<u>Name of Property</u>	<u>Criteria/Area of Signif.</u>
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046-0241	Lightsey Cottage	C - Architecture
120-0159	Lobeco School & Gymnatorium	C - Architecture
182-0468	Eddings Point Community Center [boundaries include community building, ball field, and beach]	A - Ethnic Heritage: Black; Recreation
251-0427	Monkey Farm [boundaries based on site plan; main house and caretaker's house are noncontributing]	A - Science and Technology; Health and Medicine
290-0301.00 thru .03	Clarendon Plantation [boundaries include main house, formal garden, oak avenue, and dairy]	A -Entertainment/ Recreation; C - Architecture
290-0421	Benton-Fripp Plantation	C - Architecture

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<u>Site #</u>	<u>Name of Property</u>	<u>Criteria/Area of Signif.</u>
290-0432	Burlington Plantation Indigo Vats	A - Agriculture D - Archaeology
389-0510	F. W. Scheper Store, Port Royal [see entry below about multiple property submission for Port Royal]	A - Commerce C - Architecture
470-0290	Brays Island [boundaries include house to waterfront, stable complex, and connecting road]	C - Architecture
470-0481	Tomotley Plantation Site [boundaries include oak allee, rice fields, barns. Potential for archaeological remains - explore Criterion D. House is noncontributing to the complex.]	A - Agriculture C - Engineering, Landscape Architecture
487-0311	Callawassie Island Sugar Works	A - Agriculture, Industry
487-1415	Edwards House Complex, Spring Island [at least in part determined eligible 9/1990; boundaries include tabby ruins of main house, south and north pavilions, and service building, as well as oak avenue]	C - Architecture D - Archaeology
569-0482	Twickenham [boundaries include main house (ca. 1878), an early 20th century garage and stable and possibly other resources associated with hunting plantation]	A - Recreation C - Architecture
569-1423.00 thru .06	Castle Hill Plantation [boundaries include main house, a small frame dwelling, a garage, three barns, and a tenant house]	A - Recreation C - Architecture

#### ADDENDUM TO EXISTING NATIONAL REGISTER LISTINGS

441-0351 Coffin Point Plantation Oak Allee to Coffin Point Plantation listing

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## MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSIONS

The following properties may be grouped in a thematic nomination of Civil War Fortifications in the Beaufort vicinity; each would be nominated individually but with a developed context:

<u>Site #</u>	<u>Name of Property</u>
025-0644	Battery Saxton
551-0303	Clay Hall Battery
569-0168	Unnamed Battery
569-0284	Stoney Creek Battery [determined eligible by SHPO in 1993]

The following properties may be nominated individually as part of a multiple property submission for Port Royal, South Carolina:

<u>Site #</u>	<u>Name of Property</u>
025-0536	Kirkland's Boarding House - 1102 11th Street, corner of Madrid Street
025-0539	Union Church [Port Royal Playhouse] - 1004 11th Street, between Paris Ave. and Madrid Street
025-0557	Frame Residence - 1138 13th Street, corner of Columbia Ave.
389-0507	James Leith Paul House, 902 7th Street, corner of London Ave.
389-0510	F.W. Scheper Store - 918 8th Street, corner of Paris Ave. [see above]

Others may qualify for nomination if found to be intact and possessing significance upon completion of a historic context for Port Royal.

Because there is such a prevalence of tabby-constructed resources (both intact and in ruins) in Beaufort County, a multiple property submission (thematic) for tabby is recommended. This nomination would include all properties containing significant tabby elements that are either already listed in or determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

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### PROPERTIES WORTHY OF FURTHER INVESTIGATION

The following list includes historic properties that are worthy of further investigation. Additional information about these properties may qualify or disqualify them for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. We encourage property owners or interested citizens to contact the National Register staff at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History with additional information that may be helpful in making determinations.

<u>Site #</u>	<u>Name of Property</u>
025-0579	Commander F. P. Field House - context needs development; is asbestos shingle siding original?
025-0648	Wood-Lawn Subdivision - Upon making site visit on March 3, 1998, integrity seems good; however, connection between and significance of World War II build-up in Beaufort and the development of the suburb needs to be made.
470-0288	Gardens Corner Motel - Association with the development of the Coastal Highway (U.S. Hwy. 17) needs to be developed thoroughly. Presently less than fifty years old, but likely to be eligible for National Register when old enough under Criterion A for Transportation and Recreation.
569-1419.06 and 1419.07	McPherson-Izard Cemetery, and Oak Avenue, Brewton Plantation - Condition and significance of cemetery and 1933 oak avenue needs to be established.

### OTHER PROPERTIES IN BEAUFORT COUNTY PREVIOUSLY DETERMINED ELIGIBLE AND NOT NECESSARILY INCLUDED IN ABOVE DETERMINATIONS:

<u>Site #</u>	<u>Name of Property</u>
025-133	Melrose Plantation, Lady's Island, by SHPO, 4/2/91
182-15	Croft Community Praise House, St. Helena Island, by Keeper due to owner objection, 5/26/89

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<u>Site #</u>	<u>Name of Property</u>
025-1403	Beaufort National Cemetery - determined eligible by the Keeper through 106 Review and Compliance Process, as early as 1978; listed on October 10, 1997.
182-0046	Sams Tabby Complex, Datha Island, by the Keeper due to owner objection, 10/6/88
389-21	Fort Fremont Battery, St. Helena Island, by Keeper due to owner objection, 5/26/89
442-480	Coffin Point Community Praise House, St. Helena Island, by the Keeper due to objection, 5/26/89

**AWC - 3/17/98**